The National
Future Farmer
December-January, 1981-82
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The National
Future Farmer
Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America

December-January, 1981-82
Volume 30 Number 2
ISSN 0027-9315

A Word With The Editor

The United States Department of Education made known its support for vocational student organizations (which includes the FFA) in a policy statement issued on September 28, 1981. The statement is signed by Secretary of Education T. H. Bell and the Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education Robert M. Worthington.

Under the title of "Policy Of The United States Department of Education For Vocational Education Student Organizations," the statement says in part:

"The United States Department of Education recognizes the concept of total student development as being necessary for all vocational education students . . .

". . . will provide technical and supportive services to assist vocational student organizations and State agencies . . .

". . . recognizes the responsibility for vocational instructional programs and related activities, including vocational student organizations, rests with the state and local education agencies.

". . . approves of Federal and State grant funds for vocational education to be used by the States to give leadership and support to these vocational student organizations and activities directly related to established vocational education instruction . . ."

The statement also says, "Efforts on the part of State and local education agencies to recognize and encourage the growth and development of these vocational student organizations are highly important and deserve the support of all leaders in American Education."

Any vocational agriculture instructor wanting a copy of the complete policy statement can get one by writing to: *The National FUTURE FARMER,* Box 15130, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

Your magazine has a new printer. This is the first issue printed by W. R. Bean & Son, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia. Bean was selected after reviewing proposals submitted by nearly a dozen printing companies. The company has been in business since 1894 with its major expansion into publication printing coming during the last 30 years. Some of the better known magazines they print are *US, Time, People* and *Sports Illustrated.* We welcome the people at Bean to this association with FFA.

Wilson Carnes

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Our Cover

Twenty-one-year-old John Herigstad of Mohall, North Dakota is constantly challenging himself and expanding his beekeeping operation. A 1981 candidate for Regional Star Agribusinessman, John's FFA project has blossomed into a full time career in the rising bee and honey industry of North Dakota. For more about John, see page 28. *Cover photo by Michael Wilson*

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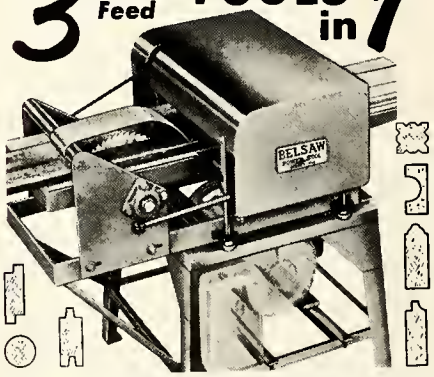

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The FFA NEWS IN BRIEF

THE EVER-CHANGIN' NATIONAL FFA CENTER has another addition with the final construction on the new FFA Library, sponsored by John Deere, as a part of the FFA National Hall of Achievement. According to Project Coordinator Lennie Gamage of the national FFA staff, the library will house books, magazines, newspapers, audio-visual materials and subject files for anyone interested or involved in vocational agriculture and the FFA. The new room, with its elegant cork-finish walls, conference table and study area, will also have on hand copies of any available research done at the master's or PhD level that involves agricultural education and FFA. An adjacent room will serve the national FFA Archives and archivist Harriet Verzagt will serve as librarian.

COMPUTER OPERATIONS AT THE National FFA Center have progressed with the recent hiring of John C. Hammel as new programmer analyst. Hammel, from Herndon, Virginia, graduated from Frostburg State College in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree and was an honor graduate of programming at the Computer Learning Center in 1976. He has had five years of programming and operations experience in the computer field, according to George Verzagt, manager of Computer Services. Mr. Verzagt says he hopes the word processing services will become available by January and the total computer system will go on-line by the fall of 1982.

IN MEMORY: Mrs. Irene Shafer, secretary to National Advisor Byron Rawls, died September 29, 1981, in Alexandria, Virginia. She had worked for the national FFA organization for 32 years, having served as administrative aide to the national Executive Secretary most of those years. Those individuals who wish to contribute to the Irene Shafer Memorial Fund may do so by contacting Mrs. Anna Hitchcock at the National FFA Center, 5632 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

NATIONAL FFA WEEK IS SET for February 20-27 and thousands of FFA chapters will be spreading the good news about FFA through media, programs, banquets and other special events. An Idea Booklet has been mailed to all chapters which includes samples of programs to supplement your own efforts. Put them all together and it spells S-U-C-C-E-S-S for this year's FFA WEEK. If you need Supply Service items, their new catalog lists some nifty promotional materials which can still be ordered in time for the big event. Two

GROWING, GROWING, GROWING: Membership in the National FFA Alumni Association topped their 1981 goal of 21,000 in October, says Executive Director Robert Cox. "It's possible we'll reach 22,000 by the end of the year," Mr. Cox speculates. "We had been growing about 10 percent every year, but we've had almost a 20 percent jump this year." Life memberships in the FFA Alumni have been growing just as fast, he says, citing 2,897 current life members compared to 2,388 this time last year.

Secretary of Education Terrel Bell, seated left, signs a proclamation supporting the nine vocational education youth groups' activities. Witnesses to the event include, from left: National FFA Advisor Byron Rawls; Robert M. Worthington, assistant secretary for Vocational and Adult Education; National FFA Vice President Susie Barrett; and National FFA Executive Secretary Coleman Harris.

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Agriculture

LOOKING AHEAD

WHAT'S THE AVERAGE U.S. FARM WORTH NOWADAYS? About $342,100, according to the *Real Estate Market Developments Outlook and Situation.* That figure, based on average value per operating unit, is more than double the $267,200 average of five years ago. Here's the breakdown in the states: Maryland farms led the Northeast States with a $408,900 average; Minnesota in the Lake States with $351,800; Illinois in the Corn Belt with $585,000; Nebraska farms led the Northern Plains States with a $491,200 average; Virginia in the Appalachian States with $182,500; Florida led the Southeast with $514,000; Louisiana topped the Delta States with a $414,700 average; Texas farms topped the Southern Plains states with $367,500; Arizona topped the Mountain States and California averaged $733,000 per farm to top the Pacific States.

ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES IS using about a billion pounds of pesticides annually—100 times more than 40 years ago—the percentage of potential food lost to insects is almost twice as great, say researchers at Cornell University. The fact is, 10 to 15 percent of America's crop is lost every year to insects. But researchers also point out we're not losing the battle altogether: the $2.5 billion spent every year on pesticides prevents a damage loss of $10 billion, a four-to-one return on every dollar.

EXCLUDING LAND COSTS, THE AVERAGE production costs for 11 major U.S. crops rose by 15.4 percent per acre in 1980, says the USDA. In 1980, the leading cost increases were fuel prices—up 38 percent; fertilizer prices—up 24 percent; and interest rates up 20 percent. The USDA reports these figures, except for interest rates, have slackened somewhat in 1981. Costs per acre were relatively unaffected by the 1980 drought, which reduced yields and harvests significantly for all 11 crops.

FARMERS CAN SPELL TAX RELIEF through the New Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. According to the Act, you can now depreciate all farm cars and light trucks in three years, equipment in five years, and buildings in 15 years. The new law also gradually lowers estate taxes: for 1982, estates up to $225,000 will be tax-exempt and by 1987, estates up to $600,000 will be tax free. As of January 1, 1982, estates or gifts of any size, willed or given to your spouse, are tax-free.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN FARMLAND, although more than a few years ago, is still a lot less than most people probably think, says a USDA report in *Farmline.* The foreign acres reported represent only six-tenths of one percent of the nation's 1¼ billion acres of privately owned agricultural land. That adds up to about 7.8 million acres of U.S. agricultural land at the start of 1981; about 1.2 million of those acres were added since early 1979.

KEEPIN' 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM: the nation's farm population shrank 37.7 percent between 1970 and 1980 says a joint report by USDA and the Census Bureau, according to the latest issue of the *Agricultural Banker.* The 1980 total was just over 6 million people down about 3½ million from the 1970 total of 9.7 million. The decrease averaged about 2.9 percent per year during the decade, compared to a 4.8 loss during the 1960's. Farm residents made up 2.7 percent of the nation's total population in 1980, compared to 15.3 percent in 1950 and 30.1 percent when the farm population was first specifically identified in 1920.

AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLES: Farming is now considered the most dangerous occupation in the United States, according to recently released statistics from the National Safety Council. There were 2,000 work deaths and 200,000 injuries in agriculture in 1980, putting the accident death rate at 61 for every 100,000 workers. Interestingly enough, farming became number one only because other occupations made greater gains in safety—not because farming became more dangerous, as illustrated by the fact that the average number of agricultural work deaths was 66 for every 100,000 workers in 1970.

THOSE OF YOU WITH GREEN THUMBS will be interested in knowing more Americans planted vegetable gardens this year than ever before in the history of the United States. Some 38 million American households planted food gardens in 1981, an unprecedented increase from 28 million households in 1980, says *The National Association for Gardening.* That figure averages out to 47 percent of all American households planting veggies this year, a jump of 4 percent over last year. Gardeners listed saving money, better tasting food and enjoyment as their reasons for venturing out into the plentiful soil of their own backyards.

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Readers Report

MAILBAG

Honor, Michigan

I am the reporter from Benzie Central FFA.

I would like to comment on your article "FFA A Growing Organization." Our chapter did receive the 10-PLUS chapter award. With this article, I'm sure we can make both.

I would also like to add something to the "Chapter Scoop." Our chapter has a petting zoo for the children at the local fair. The children may pet small farm animals.

Please try to print my topic in the "Chapter Scoop." Our chapter has never had anything in *The National FUTURE FARMER.*

Robert Fortine

Menaha, Wisconsin

I saw the coupon in the October-November issue for 1982 Official FFA Calendars. Our son Wally happens to be in Switzerland on the WEA program. He left on June 7 and will be back around December 15 or so. He wrote and asked us to get him some calendars with nice pictures for his host family in Borenhausen, Switzerland. We sure would appreciate it and I know Wally will be very pleased as well as his host family. What a nice way for them to remember Wally, the FFA program and America.

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Stumpf

We have filled your request to send FFA Calendars to Wally in Switzerland. You're right—it is a great gift for his host family.—Ed.

Huron, Tennessee

I recently received *the National FUTURE FARMER* and was very disappointed in the first joke on the Joke Page in the October-November issue.

I thought this joke was very inappropriate to be printed in a magazine published by the Future Farmers of America. I hope in the future you can use better taste in picking jokes for this page.

Howard W. Tignor, Jr.

Parkers Lane, Kentucky

In response to a joke that appeared in my October-November FFA magazine, I have been an FFA member for six years and this is the worst joke that has ever appeared in this magazine. I am also a God-fearing Christian and that joke in my opinion is blasphemy.

William C. Warman

We apologize to those who were offended. Regarding the Joke Page: more readers are encouraged to submit jokes for consideration on this popular page. We will increase payment to $5 for each joke used beginning with the February-March, 1982, issue.—Ed.

We found the owner! Last issue we ran an unidentified photo developed from a roll of film in a camera found by a local couple. They sent it to us since one person was in an FFA jacket.

Soon after the October-November issue was mailed we got a telephone call from Mr. Sheldon Richins, principal of North Summit High School in Coalville, Utah. He was ecstatic about seeing a picture of students from his school in the national FFA magazine. (He confessed that he always looks at the magazine when it first arrives in the school office.)

The camera was lost by juniors and seniors on a spring heritage tour while in Washington. Thanks to Mike Grant, who was proud enough of FFA to wear his jacket on the trip, we were able to get the school in touch with Mrs. Mary Jane Comegys who sent us the pictures.

A happy ending to a good citizen story.—Ed.

This picture was the only clue to the owner of a missing camera. It appeared in the last issue's "Mailbag" column.

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FFA Chapters in Fairfield County, Ohio pioneered fund raising with fresh Florida Citrus back in 1968, selling over 13 truckloads and averaging $1,800 a truckload their first year. Other future farmer groups picked up the practice and FFA has sold more Florida citrus combined than any other club or organization category.

And the Florida citrus industry couldn't be more pleased. It's been great working with you and we look forward to helping you with future fund raising drives.

Again, thanks, future farmers for choosing fresh Florida citrus. We hope you'll choose citrus again.

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How would you like to spend your next spring or summer climbing mountains, testing your abilities and learning about nature while living in the wilderness?

You can, if you qualify as a conservation volunteer in the Student Conservation Association, Inc.'s Student Conservation Program. The group is presently accepting requests for applications to participate in its 1982 program, says Scott Weaver, assistant director of the High School Program.

The association annually recruits high school and college-age people to assist resource management professionals in the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Programs are available throughout the United States in such places as Yellowstone National Park, the north woods of Maine on the Appalachian Trail, Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland, Grand Canyon National Park, Big Bend National Park on the Rio Grande and Olympic National Forest in Washington.

Over 250 young men and women participated in the High School Program in 1981, serving students age 16 through 18. About the same number of people age 18 or over served as Park, Forest and Resource Management Assistants, giving interpretive programs for park visitors, conducting field research, assisting rangers in backcountry patrols and other like activities.

One student who participated in the High School Program this year is FFA member Kim Raia of Antioch, Tennessee. Kim worked in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee, rerouting a part of the Appalachian Trail. Kim says she is glad for the opportunity to make new friends and work in the wilderness. "My confidence in my own ability to contribute to the betterment of this earth and my own life has increased significantly," she says. "Programs like these are enriching and rewarding. I learned so much and am glad that I was able to do something that was worthwhile.

"I am now majoring in Environmental Science and consider FFA and SCA both good experiences that will be beneficial in future career plans," she continues. "Through FFA I learned conservation practices and through SCA I realized that my future plans lie in conservation, where I can work toward a better world through better management and understanding of the fragile balance between man and the natural world."

Future Farmer Tim Gott of Marshall, North Carolina, also participated in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park work group. "I loved living, cooking and working in seclusion," says Tim. "I always wanted to work in the Park Service, and I still do."

FFA'er Tim Gott of Marshall, North Carolina.

The High School Program offers group work education and recreational experiences of three to five weeks. Equal numbers of young men and women from all geographic areas of the United States participate in groups of 6, 10 or 12, supervised by skilled, adult leadership.

Two to four weeks are devoted to conservation work and one week is spent hiking and exploring a wilderness area. Work projects often include such tasks as trail maintenance and construction, revegetation of over-used areas, boundary fencing and construction of bridges and shelters. The groups normally work in isolated backcountry areas and operate out of self-contained tent camps.

The Park, Forest and ResourceManagement Assistant Program utilizes men and women 18 years of age or older, who spend between 8 to 12 weeks performing duties similar to those of professional agency personnel. Neither group of volunteers receive a salary, although the latter do get free housing, a grant to cover travel expenses to and from the area and a grant to cover their food and living costs.

High School students are provided with food, supervision and group equipment. They provide their own personal equipment such as backpacks and sleeping bags, as well as their transportation to the area and home again. The association offers financial assistance to those economically disadvantaged who cannot meet the total cost of travel and personal equipment.

Positions in the Park, Forest and Resource Management Assistant Program are offered year-round and high school students have the option to apply for a small number of programs held during the spring. Currently, the association is accepting requests for applications to participate in its spring and summer programs.

Students who want to find out more about the High School Program should drop a postcard requesting a "Program Listing" and an application from the Student Conservation Association Inc., Box 550H, Charlestown, New Hampshire 03603. The deadline for applying for High School spring programs is February 1, while summer applications should be in the Charlestown office by March 1.

Those interested in the Park, Forest and Resource Management Assistant Program should send a postcard to the same address requesting a "Listing of Positions" and an application. These requests should return their completed applications by January 1, 1982, for the spring program and by March 1 for the summer program.

The Student Conservation Association, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt educational organization. The Student Conservation Program is an equal opportunity program. All qualified applicants will be considered regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.

Below, Kim Raia working in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

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Your New National Officers

All the hopes and dreams of becoming a National Officer have turned to reality for these six individuals, recently elected at this year's National FFA Convention.

Scott Neasham

Scott Neasham, of the Newton, Iowa, FFA Chapter, has been elected to serve as 1981-82 National FFA President and will face the challenges of leading the team of officers throughout the country representing the FFA.

Scott served as Iowa vice president and president. He will take a year's absence from Iowa State University where he is double majoring in ag education and ag business.

Scott says he was "a bit in disbelief" when the announcement of his election came. "It's very exciting," he says. "We're just looking ahead to the year before us right now."

John Pope

John Pope, of Maiden, North Carolina, and a member of the Bandys, North Carolina, FFA Chapter, is the new National Secretary. John says his reaction to being elected can be described in one word: "incredible."

"I think it's a super group of people to work with," John says referring to his officer team. "I was just hoping the best six would be elected."

John served as president of the North Carolina FFA Association and as assistant director of the state FFA camp and leadership school. He placed fourth in the National Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest.

Scott Watson

Scott Watson, from the Gallatin, Missouri, FFA Chapter, will serve this year as Vice President of the Central Region.

Scott is a student of ag education and ag economics at the University of Missouri-Columbia. In the past, he served as president and federation reporter for the Missouri FFA Association and made major revisions in the state convention program.

Scott, who says he's "looking forward to working with the other members of the team," will take a year's absence from his studies to serve his role as National Officer.

Melanie Burgess

Melanie Burgess, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, was elected Eastern Region Vice President. Currently a junior at Virginia Tech majoring in ag education, she plans a career as an ag teacher/FFA advisor.

Melanie served as president of the Virginia FFA Association and her work with her diversified livestock operation led to numerous judging and proficiency awards.

Recently Melanie has been part of an FFA delegation to Germany and Panama. She has also been active in Alpha Tau Alpha Honorary Fraternity and the Virginia Tech Collegiate FFA Chapter.

Randy Hedge

Randy Hedge, of Wickes, Arkansas, was elected National Southern Region Vice President, and will take leave of his ag business studies at Southern Arkansas University to serve the FFA.

The former Arkansas state secretary owns a beef operation and was active in several judging contests and speaking contests throughout his FFA career. He plans a career in ag law after his stint as National Officer.

Randy says he feels confident about the year ahead, adding "I feel honored because of the superb, excellent people I was fortunate enough to be chosen over."

Jack Stewart

Jack Stewart, FFA member from Douglas, Wyoming, has been elected Western Region Vice President. Jack formerly served as vice president and president of the Wyoming FFA Association.

Jack's SOEP is based on a diversified livestock operation. He placed second in the western region in sheep production one year and was named runner-up for the western region diversified livestock award a year later.

Jack's long range goals center around a career as a vo-ag instructor/FFA advisor. He studies ag education at the University of Wyoming.

The Stars Over America Pageant witnessed Chuck Berry, left, a 22-year-old dairyman from Elma, Washington, named Star Farmer. Dale Wolf, Jr., right, a 21-year-old greenhouse owner from Baldwin, Wisconsin, was chosen Star Agribusinessman.

Keynote speaker Dr. Norman Vincent Peale praised FFA members for their enthusiasm and encouraged them to think positively in all endeavors.

The National FFA Alumni Association celebrated its 10th anniversary and sponsored leadership workshops for FFA members throughout the convention. Above, group leader Mr. Dave Thomas and an FFA member participate in a skit.

Below, an FFA member does a careful evaluation during one of nine national contests ranging from livestock judging to farm business management. Over 1,500 members vied for the winning place.

The Glitter of

It was a gathering of stars, a time to make decisions, and a chance to recognize the FFA's best in areas ranging from public speaking to production agriculture.

Amid pageantry and splendor, 22,768 Future Farmers of America converged upon Kansas City November 12-14 to celebrate achievements, participate in contests and kick off a new FFA year under the theme "VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE Growing For America." Led by National Officers Mark Herndon, Bob Quick, Susie Barrett, Glenn Caves, David Pearce and Dave Alders, members and guests were guided through a star-studded action-packed agenda, symbolic of this highlight of the FFA year.

Inspirational words from top-notch speakers like farm broadcaster Orion Samuelson and former Iranian hostage Col. David Roeder challenged and moved convention-goers to several standing ovations. Remarks from notables such as Jina Ford, former FFA member/Miss USA, and Olympic gold medalist John Naber brought cheers and smiles to the crowds of blue and gold jackets that filled Municipal Auditorium to capacity throughout most sessions.

Talent participants performed during the convention sessions and every half-hour at the Career Show.

State delegates spent many hours on the convention floor discussing crucial items of business.

The FFA's famous "mail order" band and chorus took to the stage often throughout the convention and provided much of the electricity and excitement.

Blue and Gold

But the convention was much more than keynote speeches and remarks from celebrities. Spirited debate among official delegates during business sessions resulted in passage of one amendment and the failure of another. After the smoke cleared, delegates had voted to increase the net worth requirement of the American Farmer Degree from $1,000 to $5,000. The move for reapportionment failed.

In other events Bill Caraway, from Clovis, New Mexico, captured the National Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest, and Kenny Davis, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, won the Prepared Public Speaking Contest.

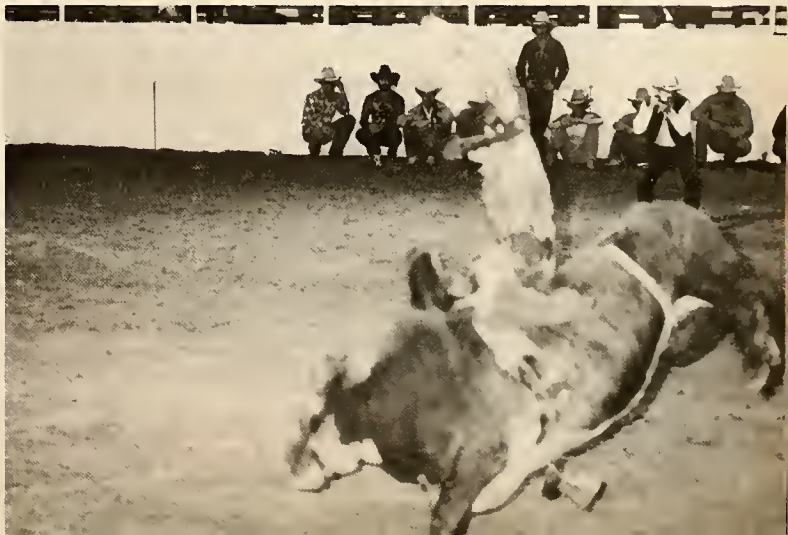
Running simultaneously with the convention was the ever-popular National Agricultural Career Show, which provided FFA members opportunities to explore new career fields.

And, although there was much, much more, words simply can't do justice in describing what happened in Kansas City on November 12, 13, and 14. We hope these pages help you visualize the FFA's 54th National Convention, a gathering which truly epitomized the glitter of blue and gold and vocational agriculture—both growing for America.

The *FFA Times* convention newspaper was distributed for the first time and proved to be a big hit with members (above). A set of all four issues will be mailed to every chapter in the nation.

Eddie Albert, star of the popular television show Green Acres, was a special surprise guest at the convention.

About 15,000 FFA'ers packed into Kemper arena to watch the American Royal PRCA Rodeo during *FFA Day at the Royal.*



FFA's Winner's Circle

National winners in bold type.

Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Star American Farmer	Douglas Schwartz Washington, Kansas Washington FFA	Tony Mitchell Elkin, North Carolina Surry Central FFA	George McDonald Riddleton, Tennessee Carthage FFA Chapter	**Chuck Berry** Elma, Washington Elma FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Star Agribusinessmen	Dale Wolt, Jr. Baldwin, Wisconsin St. Croix Central FFA	David Wenger Myerstown, Pennsylvania Eastern Lebanon Co. FFA	Michael Welch Speedwell, Tennessee Powell Valley FFA	Terry Daniel Mesa, Arizona Westwood FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Prepared Public Speaking	Todd Whitney Stella, Nebraska Southeast Cons. FFA	Marc Van Pelt Dayton, Virginia Turner Ashby FFA	Larry Davidson Lebanon, Tennessee Lebanon FFA Chapter	**Kenny Davis** Guthrie, Oklahoma Guthrie FFA	FMC Foundation
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Brian King Aurora, Missouri Aurora FFA	Rodney Gilliland Sycamore, Ohio Mohawk FFA Chapter	Genna McDonald Sparkman, Arkansas Sparkman FFA	**Bill Caraway** Clovis, New Mexico Clovis FFA Chapter	American Farm Bureau Federation
Agricultural Proficiency					
Agricultural Electrification	**James Loven** Cannon Falls, MN Cannon Falls FFA	Danny Wright Ruther Glen, Virginia Caroline FFA Chapter	Robert Pike Groveland, Florida Groveland FFA Chapter	Philip Kennedy Elgin, Oklahoma Elgin FFA Chapter	Food and Energy Council, Inc.
Agricultural Mechanics	Jeff Langhoff Marion, Iowa Linn-Mar FFA Chapter	**Ronald Good** Stevens, Pennsylvania Cloister FFA Chapter	**Mark Ford** McMinnville, Tennessee Woodbury FFA Chapter	Jay Paul Custer, Washington Ferndale FFA	International Harvester
Agricultural Processing	Duane Hendricks Motley, Minnesota Motley FFA Chapter	**Thomas Kirk** Honey Brook, PA Twin Valley FFA	William Strawbridge Groveland, Florida Groveland FFA	Lerry Pullen Sandy, Oregon Sandy FFA Chapter	Cargill Foundation
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	Pat Fitzsimmons Caledonia, Michigan Caledonia FFA	Deen Van Vorhis Bowling Green, Ohio Bowling Green FFA	Billy Womack Woodbury, Tennessee Woodbury FFA Chapter	**Jim Morford** Wapato, Washington Wapato FFA Chapter	Allis-Chalmers Corporation
Beef Production	T. J. Martin Lamer, Nebraska Imperial FFA	Rex Bradford Wapakoneta, Ohio Wapakoneta FFA	Hugh Raney Decaturville, Tennessee Riverside FFA Chapter	**Jason Wendler** Bryan, Texas Bryan FFA Chapter	NASCO and Sperry New Holland
Crop Production	**Bryan Sommer** Gibbon, Minnesota Fairfax FFA Chapter	Robert Bumgardner South Vienne, Ohio Northeastern-Clark FFA	Carlton Jones McMinnville, Tennessee Warren County FFA	Al Zepp Elma, Washington Elma FFA Chapter	Massey-Ferguson, Inc.
Dairy Production	Douglas Frendsen Poskin, Wisconsin Darron FFA Chapter	**James Tugend** Jeromesville, Ohio Hillsdale FFA Chapter	Keith Blythe Booneville, Arkansas Mansfield FFA Chapter	Jack Burkhart, Jr. Astoria, Oregon Clatsop FFA Chapter	American Breeders Service, Inc., AVCO New Idea, DeLaval Agricultural Div.
Diversified Livestock Production	Scott Zube Viroqua, Wisconsin Viroqua FFA Chapter	**Randall Reedy** Linville, Virginia Broadway FFA Chapter	Garry Childs Pelham, Georgia Cairo FFA Chapter	Jeff Roesler Startup, Washington Sultan FFA Chapter	A.O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc., Wayne Feeds Div. of Continental Grain Co.
Fish and Wildlife Management	Doug Ruff St. Charles, Missouri Francis Howell FFA	Lerry Pruitt Providence, NC Bartlett-Yancey FFA	Steve Ingram Brent, Alabama Bibb County AVC FFA	**Miles Bradshaw** Nacogdoches, Texas Nacogdoches FFA	Philip Morris, Inc.
Floriculture	Linda Mey Oneida, Wisconsin Green Bay East FFA	**Brien Garner** Newport, North Carolina West Carteret FFA	Kenneth Graham Hattiesburg, MS Brooklyn FFA Chapter	David Bisenieks Arvada, Colorado Warren Center FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Forest Management	Ronnie Stephens Washburn, Missouri Southwest R-5 FFA	William Stevenson, III Salisbury, Maryland Wicomico FFA Chapter	**Charles Pierce** Athens, Tennessee McMinn FFA Chapter	David Springer Elma, Washington Elma FFA Chapter	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Fruit and/or Vegetable Production	David Claerhout Unionville, Michigan USA FFA Chapter	John Nichols Middletown, Virginia James Wood FFA	**Lu Ann Gilliland** Cleveland, Tennessee Bradley FFA Chapter	Kyle Knight Connell, Washington Connell FFA	Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Home and/or Farmstead Improvement	Mike Krubsack Denmark, Wisconsin Denmark FFA Chapter	**Bobby Peterson** Washington C.H., Ohio Miami Trace FFA	Kenneth Kelly Martin, Tennessee Westview FFA	Thomas Geerheert Othello, Washington Othello FFA	The Upjohn Company
Horse Proficiency	Jody Strand Toddville, Iowa Alburnette FFA	**Randy Young** Greenville, Ohio Greenville FFA	Joey King Senad, Alabama Susan Moore FFA	Debbie Kralovetz Glendale, Arizona Greenwey FFA	American Quarter Horse Association
Nursery Operations	Jeff Driver Paducah, Kentucky Reidland FFA Chapter	**John McAllister** Stephenson, Virginia James Wood FFA	Dennis Byrd Pierson, Florida T. DeWitt Taylor FFA	Russell Berrus Othello, Washington Othello FFA	Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
Outdoor Recreation	Joe LeBlanc Little Falls, Minnesota Little Falls FFA	Matthew Wiley Zanesfield, Ohio Benjamin Logan FFA	Danny Burton Parsons, Tennessee Riverside FFA	**George Grassell** Pinedale, Wyoming Pinedale FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Placement in Agricultural Production	James Kaup Dodge, Nebraska Howells FFA Chapter	Vance Brown Conewango Valley, NY Randolph FFA Chapter	Thomas Bell McCalla, Alabama McAvory FFA Chapter	**Mike Kauk** Leedey, Oklahoma Leedey FFA	Hesston Corporation and Shell Chemical Company
Poultry Production	Brian Roberts Syracuse, Indiana Wawasee FFA Chapter	**Lisa Weikel** Jonestown, PA Northern Lebanon FFA	Michael Fair Gordo, Alabama Gordo FFA Chapter	Edwin Hoeg, III Murphys, California Bret Harte FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Sheep Production	Tom Marshall Allen, Michigan Quincy FFA Chapter	**Randy Lewis** Bloomingburg, Ohio Miami Trace FFA	Kyle Kant Maryville, Tennessee Heritage FFA	Allen Mouritsen Wellsville, Utah Sky View FFA	American Sheep Producers Council, Inc., Sheep Industry Program, Carnation Company
Soil and Water Management	Bill Dull Thorntown, Indiana Western Boone FFA	William Draughon Fayetteville, NC Cape Fear FFA Chapter	**Phillip Jenkins** Milan, Tennessee Milan FFA Chapter	David Dirks Amherst, Colorado Holyoke FFA	Ford Motor Company Fund
Swine Production	**David Anderson** Darlington, Indiana North Montgomery FFA	Mark Runyan Urbana, Ohio Urbana Pretty Prairie FFA	Randy Spivey Zephyrhills, Florida Zephyrhills FFA	Mike Graham Lefors, Texas Pampa FFA Chapter	Pfizer, Inc.
Turf and Landscape Management	Steve Tilly St. Joseph, Michigan Lakeshore FFA Chapter	**Jay Peoples** Grove City, Ohio Grove City FFA Chapter	David Irwin Cantonment, Florida Tate FFA Chapter	Steven Stowell Rickreall, Oregon Central FFA	O. M. Scott & Sons Company
National BOAC Citation	Eastwood FFA Chapter Eastwood, Iowa	Bennington FFA Chapter Bennington, Vermont	Bunnell FFA Chapter Bunnell, Florida	**St. David FFA Chapter** St. David, Arizona	R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc.

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	**Minnesota**—David Dahl, Leonard Soltau, Curt Sheely; Leroy	**Albert Urbanek** Needville, Texas	Firestone Tire & Rubber Company
Dairy Cattle	**California**—Tony Demello, Carlos Estacio, Scott Miguel; Turlock	**Scott Miguel** Turlock, California	Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
Farm Business Management	**Missouri**—Scott Warren, Donna Pinney, Raymond Quinn; Chillicothe	**Chapman Dilworth** Penn Laird, Virginia	John Deere
Floriculture	**Washington**—Gregg Janson, Joe Tonn, Leenn Burnett; Battleground	**Billy Cole** Beer Creek, North Caroline	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Livestock	**Minnesota**—Dan Nouerth, David Monson, David Richter; Lakefield	**Andy Forehand** Grady, New Mexico	Ralston Purina Company
Meats	**Texas**—Jerome Picniazek, Dwayne Padalecki, Brian Williamson; San Antonio	**Jerome Picniazek** San Antonio, Texas	Farmland Foods, Inc., Geo. A. Hormel & Co., Jones Dairy Farm, Oscar Mayer & Co.
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	**California**—Kathleen Loya, Tracy Moore, Nicole Walters; Hanford	**Kathleen Loya** Hanford, California	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc., Petz Company
Nursery/Landscape	**Washington**—Even Wilkins, Ron Spickler, Rene Craven; Everett	**Ron Spickler** Everett, Washington	American Association of Nurserymen, Wholesale Nursery Growers of America
Poultry	Arkansas—Pete Brandenburg, Rodney Wolfe, Joey Pianalto; Springdale	**Joey Pianalto** Springdale, Arkansas	Hubbard Farms, Victor F. Weaver, Inc.

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The Computer Comes to

Under the supervision of ag teacher Floyd Lehman, students at Langford, South Dakota, can "call up" computer programs and get instruction on literally countless farm management topics.

Nowadays FFA members/vo-ag students can sit down at a computer and learn to make better decisions in farm management.

By Michael Wilson

MENTION the word "computer" to a farmer 15 years ago and he probably would have conjured up images of huge rooms filled with robot-like gadgets, complete with white-coated scientists running to and fro punching buttons and flipping dials.

Now those days have passed; the computer has wrestled its way into practically every aspect of life today—in business, in banks; practically everybody from the butcher to the baker is involved somehow with a computer. And yes, the computer has also made its way into the feedlot as well.

"The computer in agriculture," as one high school vo-ag instructor puts it, "is here to stay." And not only in production agriculture or agribusiness either. It's also

Left: Instructor Don Barber, of Owatonna, Minnesota, shows an FFA member how to work the telephone hook-up for the "MECC" computer system.

the Classroom

being used by secondary ag teachers all across the country to instruct students how to manage their farming operations better. The result? Students who can make better, quicker and more efficient management decisions leading toward more productive careers in agriculture.

It's happening now in vocational agriculture departments everywhere and one good example is at the Langford FFA Chapter in South Dakota, under the supervision of vo-ag teacher Floyd Lehman. Mr. Lehman, in his fourteenth year of teaching, owns his own micro-computer and data bank, and uses them both in his daily classroom instruction. Students can sit down to a terminal—about the same size as an electric typewriter—and call up a "program," which often times consists of answering practice questions on an unlimited number of farm management topics. And they can work at their own pace, individually.

Mr. Lehman says one advantage is that students can also use the machine to make more informed decisions on their own supervised occupational experience programs.

"One of my students came in early this afternoon and ran a program on wheat, trying to figure out what his best crop would be," says Mr. Lehman. "Another wanted to buy feeder pigs, and he worked out the breakeven analysis.

"Basically, if students have a micro (computer) available to them they should be able to use it on a "what-if" basis—what if I would buy a $40,000 tractor instead of a $60,000 tractor? What if I would plant wheat instead of corn?"

Mr. Lehman is quick to point out that computer instruction in farm management won't make decision-making obsolete. "They still have to make their own decisions. But at least the information and analysis that the computer puts out gives them something to base that decision on," he explains. "The farm management end of it ties in well with the high school because it's providing information that's meaningful for the high school students."

The situation at Langford, although successful, is not typical. In most cases, schools are either buying their own microcomputer systems or just buying the computer terminal, whereupon ag teachers can tap in to state or regional computer systems via telephone. The computer assistance network which serves South Dakota, called "AGNET," is a part of the Cooperative Extension service and now approaches its seventh birthday. It's been growing since its origin in Nebraska in 1975, as illustrated by its current 2,000 clients in 36 states, three Canadian provinces and two other foreign countries,

These "mini-disks" hold several farm management programs from which students and instructors can choose from.

according to Don Peterson, coordinator at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota.

AGNET's basic purpose is to make computers and computer programs easy to use so that several types of management assistance can be made available to farm and ranch producers, researchers and members of the agribusiness community—which now includes vo-ag classrooms. The clients use their own computer terminal and gain access to the AGNET system via telephone.

Mr. Peterson says the goal seven years ago, as now, is to support the AGNET system from two major areas; user fees paid by farmer-rancher and agribusiness clients, and state support for teaching, research and extension use at land-grant colleges such as South Dakota State University. "If we can keep AGENT computer services timely, easy to use, and able to serve a valuable purpose, I'm certain we can anticipate the continued growth of the network," he says.

Over in Minnesota, a state recognized for its farm management instruction, Associate Professor Gary Leske at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Education department says the new use of computers in high school classrooms is constantly changing. Minnesota high schools can plug into the large-frame computer service called MECC (Minnesota Educational Computer Consortium). He says currently about 92 percent of the schools in the state can get into the system.

"Almost all ag programs have access to the MECC system," says Mr. Leske. "But, realistically, only about 25 percent are active in a regularly scheduled way. In many cases, teachers are not prepared to operate them (computers)."

Instructor John Hobert agrees with Mr. Leske's statement. He's an FFA advisor and a vo-ag instructor involved with computer instruction at Cannon Falls, Minnesota.

"When you get a program, a lot of time there's no written material to go with it—that's a problem," he says. "We need more written material that outlines completely what we see in the computer. Also, we need more written documentation on how to operate the programs and more skilled program writers who are in the agricultural field."

One FFA chapter active in using the MECC hook-up even has a class called "Computers in Agriculture" outlined in their course curriculum. The Willmar, Minnesota, curriculum guide's course outline describes the computer as "the newest farm tool," and that "students will run various programs on the computer useful in decison-making on the farm."

This is the fourth year for Willmar's computer class, says vo-ag instructor Dave Damhoff. "The students go over all the programs that are available in ag,"he explains. "It ties in with our farm management course because in order to run the computer properly you have to know a few management skills to know what figures to plug into it." Examples of programs include learning to figure feed rations, crop comparisons and amortizing farm loans. Mr. Damhoff says MECC is constantly adding new programs to the system as well.

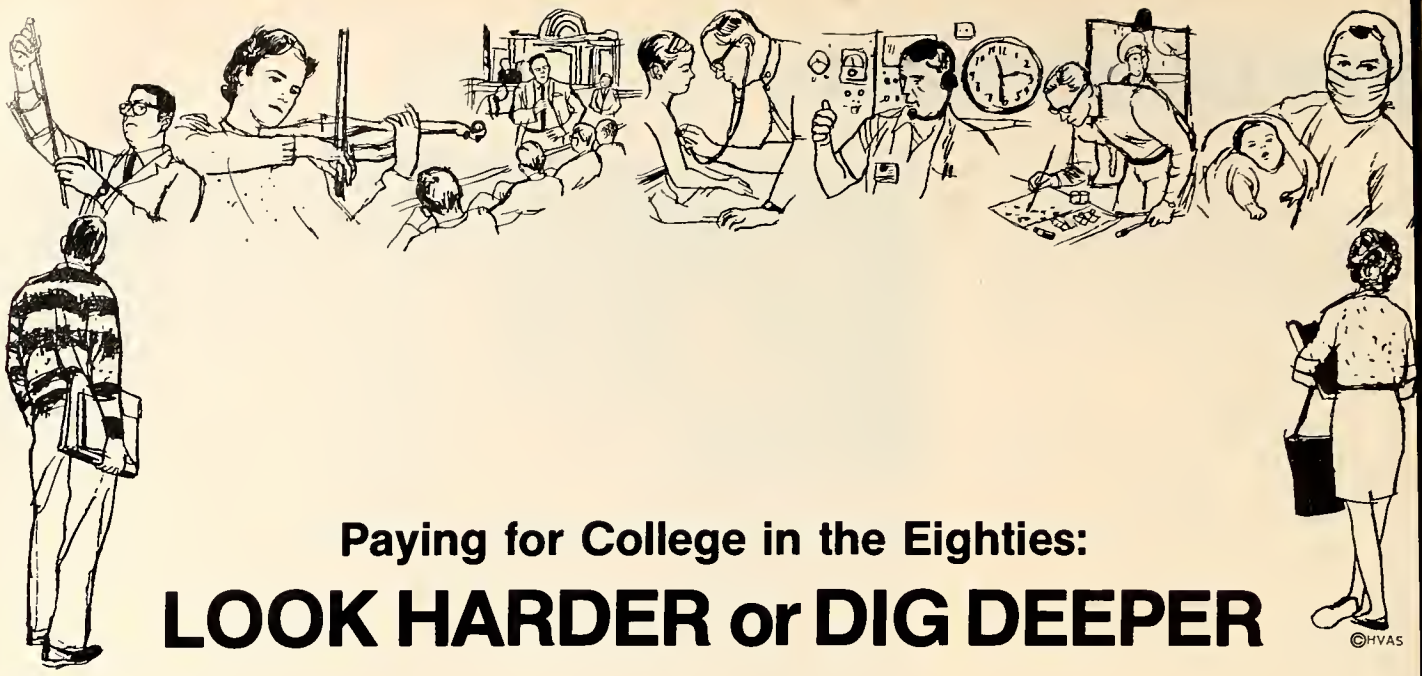
The use of the computer in the classroom is just one segment of the progressive, more efficient skills being explored in the farm management area throughout agriculture. Floyd Lehman taught adult farm management for four years before starting the Langford vocational education program from scratch four years ago. He says he can see the need for good farm management skills.

"Many farmers don't know what the cost of production is," Mr. Lehman explains. "They plow, they plant, they harvest—at the end of the year if they have any money left in the checking account they think they've made money for the year.

"They used to say that if you can't do anything else you can always farm," he adds. "But that's so far from the truth now it hurts."

The instructor from Langford says he hopes students become aware of the different uses of the computer in the classroom and the effects it will have on their future endeavors as farmers. "Hopefully, they'll have the appreciation of what a computer can do for them as far as decision-making, record-keeping and so forth. At least they'll know that it's another tool they have at their disposal.

"We don't want to try to make computer experts out of them," he says as a final note. "But the computer in agriculture is here and it's here to stay. The least we can do is make the students aware of what it can do for them and the benefits they can get from it."



Paying for College in the Eighties:

LOOK HARDER or DIG DEEPER

WHAT'S the most important date for college students? Graduation Day? Wrong. It's October 1. That's the day the new federal fiscal year starts. It's also the day on which federal student aid will be harder to come by.

"You can sum up three billion dollars worth of cuts in three short sentences," says Robert Leider, student aid expert. "One, fewer and smaller grants. Two, restricted access to low-interest student loans. And, three, easier access to high-interest loans."

Leider has this advice for parents and students: "*Understand* student financial aid. The more you know about it, the less deeper you will have to dig." He offers 12 tips for saving on college costs:

1. BE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE FEDERAL aid programs—Pell Grants, the three campus-based programs (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, College Work-Study and National Direct Student Loans) and the two major loan programs (the low-interest Guaranteed Student Loans and the high-interest Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students, known as ALAS).

Together, these programs add up to eight billion dollars per year, even after the cuts. "Know their eligibility criteria and application procedures," Leider says.

2. APPLY EARLY. Not only colleges, but Uncle Sam himself can—and most likely will—run out of money.

3. APPLY ACCURATELY. An application returned for corrections, once it is resubmitted, will put the student at the tail end of the line. By then, the available money will probably be gone.

4. STAY IN YOUR STATE. States award almost one billion dollars of student aid per year. Leave your state to attend an out-of-state college and kiss this money good-bye.

5. SHOP FOR COLLEGES. When looking over colleges, ask two questions: 1. What innovative payment plans are offered, such as installment plans or guaranteed cost plans where students can pay four years' tuition in advance, using a low-interest loan made by the college; and, 2. What special tuition aid programs are offered, such as middle income assistance awards, matching scholarships, tuition remission for good grades, or sibling scholarships (lower tuition when two members of a family are in attendance at the same time). "Colleges are willing to discount their tuition to the right student," Leider says. "It's either that or have an empty seat."

6. BARGAIN WITH FINANCIAL AID OFFICERS on the award package offered you. Try to increase the package's grant component, lower its loan component. "But bargain only if you sincerely feel that the college wants you as a student," Leider cautions.

7. TRY FOR AN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP. They're offered by over 800 colleges which seek to attract bright students. "Most of these awards," Leider points out, "are not based on financial need."

8. CONSIDER THE COOPERATIVE EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE. That's when students alternate between formal classroom studies and actual work experience. Many students earn $5,000 per year or more during the work phase. "One caution," Leider says, "is that it may take you five years to pick up a degree."

9. GET YOUR SELF HIRED by an employer who will pay your tuition. Companies, large and small, annually commit almost $5 billion to employee tuition assistance plans, most of which goes unused. "A rich mine waiting to be tapped," says Leider.

10. MIX IT UP. Take the freshman and sophomore years at a nearby community college, transfer for the third and fourth years to a four-year school. Your degree will have the prestige of the four-year school, but you will have earned it at a bargain price.

11. ACCELERATION. Pick up college credits through Advanced Placement, the Proficiency Examination, or the CLEP program. Credit hours can cost $200 or more. Any hour for which you gain credit, according to Leider, is money which stays in your pocket.

12. CHECK OUT THE NATIONAL GUARD. It sponsors a profusion of educational aid programs. These include benefits from the state level, $1,000 per year from the federal level and an opportunity to have your federal student loan paid off at the rate of $500 per year or 15 percent of what you owe, whichever is more.

"It's still possible to put some salve on the wounds made by the federal cuts," Leider says. But he adds ominously, "but soon there will be another October 1."

If you would like to get more ideas on how to save money paying for college, Mr. Leider has published several student aid guides that offer a wealth of student aid opportunities and alternatives. For more information write: Octameron Press, P.O. Box 3437, Alexandria, VA 22302.

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RAZZY BAILEY
He Never Stopped Trying

By Jeffrey Tennant

Left, Razzy Bailey reflects on his past days as an FFA member. Above: delighting an audience with country music.

FARMING and performing hot-selling country music are seemingly worlds apart. But for Razzy Bailey, a former FFA member from Lafayette, Alabama, the two go together like fiddle and bow.

Razzy's a star. But his roots, and his start in music, go back to a small farm background and a championship string band—assembled with a few talented Future Farmers. Now, with eight straight top-ten singles, appearances on shows like "Hee Haw" and awards such as country music's best new male performer, Razzy still remembers his beginings. Those early years were tough, but Razzy had his mind made up. He would succeed and he never stopped trying.

"I played guitar and wrote songs in my first band," Razzy says through a warm smile and a humble manner that makes strangers feel like friends. "Lafayette was a small school, not too many musicians. But our FFA chapter had a good band. In fact, you had to wait until somebody graduated to even get in. As an eighth grader, I wanted to be in that band. You might say the music inspired me to join FFA and study agriculture."

Razzy's determination and solid guitar playing soon led him to a spot in the group. Meanwhile, his "great agriculture teacher and advisor," Paul Holley, introduced Razzy and his classmates to agriculture. Music and FFA kept Razzy and friends "out of trouble" by giving the eager, creative young men an outlet for energy. The band played constantly, and a full schedule of FFA activities claimed Razzy's priority. He admits though, he didn't escape teacher discipline entirely.

"I still got in trouble," he laughs, "because teachers would catch me writing songs in class." Careful not to wrongly inspire today's Future Farmers, the star adds, "I'd be working hard, though."

Working hard is the top tune in Razzy's roster. He doesn't believe in shortcuts to the top. Whether it's farming or performing, Razzy says a successful career calls for total dedication, 24 hours a day.

"Many young people are trying to make it on six hours out of an eight-hour day," he says. "They should be trying to squeeze *ten* into eight. For me it may be doing an interview at 4 a.m. at an all-night radio station. For a farmer it may mean working all night to get a crop in before a storm. Unless you're willing, in any career, to make a commitment, you'll never hit the top. That's O.K., if you're satisfied. I just never am."

Razzy's taken many mental "punches" in his bout to reach stardom. His small town upbringing filled him with ballads but also kept the fast-paced music business far away. He and his dad, Rasie, wrote, picked and sang songs and the music was fine. But the younger Bailey felt the tug of a dream. After graduation, and a second place finish in FFA string band competition at Alabama's state convention, Razzy tucked those two accomplishments in his hatband and set out for more. His journey would take him over some 15 years of unrewarding daytime jobs and endless nights of playing music in Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Finally, in 1973, major record labels took notice of the determined young singer/songwriter's obvious knack for thrilling his listeners.

"A band I had formed cut a record to sell to some local fans in Macon," Razzy shares, "and in 1973 a song called 'I Hate Hate' caught three labels' attention, MGM being one. MGM released it but nothing happened. Another couple of years went by before something finally paid off. A popular singer recorded a song of mine called '9,999,999 Tears' and it went to number one. I had written it ten years before. It just proves you shouldn't give up on your goals. Set them higher than you can reach and you'll accomplish much more than if you limit yourself."

Razzy has shined as a star. All of his singles for RCA, his current label, have soared up country charts. His last two tunes hit number one. As his airplay has grown, so has the demand for personal appearances, television work and promotional tours for records such as *Friends*, his latest album.

Though the dream of successfully standing in the spotlight has come true for Razzy, he remains close to the family and farm-life that saw him through his 20-year climb to musical heights. The father of four still heads to his LaGrange, Georgia, farm between show dates and recording sessions. And he hasn't lost sight of the value of setting goals.

Razzy sees it like this: "If you want to just drive a tractor on somebody else's farm, then do it. But if you're not content, work harder. You can start off plowin' someone else's field—but then move on up to your own."

Is he happy as a star? "I love what I do," he shares. "I'm thankful for a good record label, booking agency, band and health. But I'm still not satisfied. I want to go all the way to the top."

Razzy's "top" may never come. For him, every accomplished goal soon becomes a stepping stone to even greater achievement.

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Think about the total cost of ownership. Include the purchase price, of course. But also add in the cost of operating and servicing the tractor. And don't forget to include the cost of repairs over the life of the tractor

Now, deduct the trade-in value when replacement time arrives. A John Deere looks pretty good on all the previous points, but this one should be the clincher.

In general, a used John Deere will command a good price for its condition. We urge you to look around used equipment lots or visit auction sales. More often than not, you'll find that a properly maintained John Deere has retained its value exceptionally well. If you ask enough neighbors, you'll find someone who sold his used John Deere for more than its new price.

Why is a used John Deere worth so much? Well, used prices merely reflect what farmers believe various tractors are worth. If a farmer will pay more for a used John Deere, you know he believes he gets more

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It's simple, really. A farmer shopping for a used tractor is looking for the same virtues you are when you seek a new tractor. The same reasons that make a new John Deere look so good, make a used John Deere more desirable.

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Left: successful beekeeping means John must keep a close watch on honey production in the beehives.

Below, FFA Advisor Gary Wendel, John, brother Paul and father Maynard Herigstad inspect frames, now filled with honey and ready to be processed.

Photos by Author

His Business is Bees

By Michael Wilson

Successful honey production amidst the rising bee industry of North Dakota has helped propel beekeeper John Herigstad to the American Farmer degree this year.

IN most respects, 21-year-old John Herigstad's supervised occupational experience program seems like any other successful FFA member's farm project. John, like others, began his project on his family farm, with dad's help; like others, he recently began a full time career utilizing his project as a springboard; and, like others, he's worked hard to achieve the success that has earned him the FFA's coveted American Farmer degree this past year.

Typical FFA success story, right? Wrong. For although John Herigstad is an outstanding FFA member and dedicated young farmer, he's built and developed his impressive farm program *without* livestock; *without* crops; *without* farm machinery.

You see, John Herigstad is a beekeeper. He "harvests" honey.

He's a darn good beekeeper at that. His "livestock" are his bees—about 40 million head, so to speak; and his "crop" is some of the sweetest, most delicious honey you will ever taste in your life. John's good at what he does—in fact, along with advice from vo-ag instructor Gary Wendel, John has climbed the rungs of FFA achievement to where recently he was chosen as the one American Farmer to represent his state as the candidate for Central Region Star Agribusinessman.

The Herigstad Honey Farm is located just northeast of Mohall, North Dakota, a quiet peaceful community just five minutes south of the Canadian border. Here, where harsh northerly climates allow only a limited spectrum of small grain crops to flourish, John's bees busily go about building their sticky-sweet honey combs. Fall is just around the corner here, but the noonday September sun still embraces the earth with its warmth.

John's father, Maynard Herigstad, is a grain farmer and was one of the first major beekeepers in the area, owning and operating a large setup for 20 years now. John remembers his first experiences helping his father.

"I've helped with the operation since I was six years old," John says. "I always

enjoyed it, so when I enrolled in vo-ag as a high school freshman, bees were the logical choice when selecting a supervised occupational experience program.

"I started with 15 hives at the time," he adds. "Little did I realize how quickly that small project would develop into a sizable enterprise."

It developed, all right; by the time John graduated from Mohall Public High School in 1978 he was collecting honey from 200 beehives and ready to take on the responsibility of a full time career in the industry. Now John puts out 500 hives per year, as does his father. Not significant, perhaps, until you realize that each hive has a peak bee population of about 80,000 bees. With some quick multiplication, that comes up to 80 million bees to take care of.

The action at the Herigstad Honey Farm begins to heat up around May, when truckers pick up semiloads of Herigstad's hives in California and drop them off at the home operation in North Dakota. The bees are wintered in California where they are used to pollinate fruit groves and orchards. For a fee, farmers use the Herigstad's honey-makers for pollination of their almond and prune trees for a period of two to three weeks in each orchard. If it is a rainy season, sugar water must be added to the hives for the bees to survive. Normally the bees will feed off any honey that they make during their stay in California. Also, the North Dakota climate is too harsh for bees to survive in the winter.

The first step for John and 17-year-old brother Paul, a State Farmer and also involved in beekeeping, is to set the hive boxes (called "supers" among beekeepers) out on the 35 different hive sites, on land contracted by area farmers. Inside each super are frames made of wax and plastic which the bees fill with honey and then cap with their own wax. The frames are reusable.

Although the hives are all within 30 miles of home, the travel route for the Herigstad's extends over a good 250 miles. Both John and Paul cover the distance each week to check honey production and for any disease which may hinder the bees.

As the season shifts to summer and alfalfa and sweet clover start to bloom, "supers" must be added to each stack of hives to accommodate the increasing honey production. John says alfalfa and sweet clover are the best nectar sources, producing the light-colored honey that buyers favor. "But the saturation point, even for a field of alfalfa or clover, is three hives per acre," he explains. Very few North Dakota farmers object to the bees, since bees pollinate their crops. "Seven billion dollars worth of crops produced in the United States are dependent on bees for pollination," the Mohall FFA member says. He cites alfalfa, vine crops, sunflowers and almond trees as examples.

The next big step is the harvest. The Herigstads extract honey twice during the year, in July and September. But since the

Removing frames from radial extractor.

operation is so big, each harvest takes about a month to complete, so the routine is fairly continuous.

Once the hives are brought back from the fields, the honey is ready to be extracted. At the farm, the honey-filled frames, now carefully capped with beeswax, are removed from the supers and processed. First, a machine carefully removes the beeswax caps on each tiny circular catacomb. Then, the frames are placed in the "radial extractor," which removes the honey and remaining remnants through centrifugal force.

Next, the wax is separated from the honey and made into blocks which the Herigstads sell for a market price of about $1.90 per pound. Mr. Herigstad says there's a good market for beeswax, primarily in candles and the cosmetic industry as well as wax recycled back into the bee industry.

The extracted honey drains into a sump and is pumped into settling tanks which John says were bought from a local creamery after it had burned. Although the honey still has impurities at this stage, the filtering process which happens next is natural. "Honey is heavy," John explains. "It weighs 12 pounds to the gallon. The debris floats up and all the clean honey settles to the bottom. So when it comes out of this last tank," he says motioning to the container, "it's actually table ready."

From there the honey is poured into 55 gallon barrels and placed in storage where it waits to be shipped. Most of it will go to New York where a commercial bottler refilters, bottles and distributes the honey.

The Herigstad's market price this year averaged 58 cents per pound, which includes a federal price support. But Mr. Herigstad says the 30 percent duty placed on honey leaving the United States coupled with only a 1 percent duty cost to honey imports from major competitors like Argentina and Australia makes it tough to compete. Domestic buyers sometimes find they can buy the honey cheaper if they buy it from another country.

Mr. Herigstad says he first became interested in entomology in college, becoming fascinated by a book on the subject. He laughs when he talks about the early days, when beekeepers were thought to be "slightly touched." But now that's been replaced by a rising and growing bee industry in North Dakota. "In the last five years, it's doubled every year," adds John. "There's more honey being sold and there's more of a market for it now. North Dakota is a fairly ideal area for bees, in fact, it's number one in honey production right now."

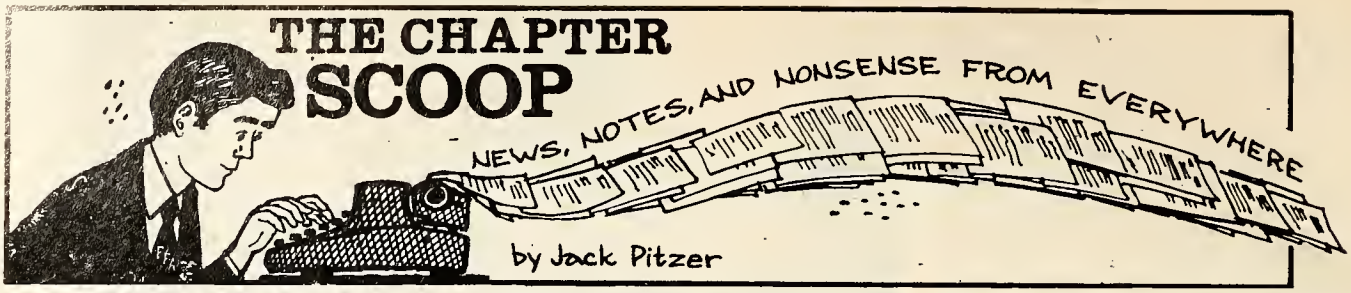
Although most people think bees have a rather nasty disposition, John says in actuality the bee is a fascinating creature. "The queen bee, who has a lifespan of five to seven years, is continually laying eggs in the hives during the summer," John explains. "The queen lays an average of about 1,000 eggs per day." What's more, the queen only ventures out into the daylight once in her life, and then only to mate. The Herigstads "cull their herd" by only keeping a queen bee two years. "The first year is their peak, the second year is good, but the third year they start going down in production," John says. "Instead of laying a peak of 2,000 eggs per day, they're down to about 500."

In contrast, the worker bee only lives six to eight weeks, John estimates. When she (all worker bees are female) first emerges, she goes through several fascinating "tours of duty." One segment involves working as a sentinel.

"It gets six days of guard duty guarding the hive," Mr. Herigstad explains. "If you look at a hive, every bee that lights on the entrance is checked by another with feelers—he best belong there," he says with a grin. "If there's a shortage of honey and the bee is loaded they might let him in. But

(Continued on Page 31)

John uses a converted pickup truck to store beehives before processing.



At the September meeting, *Southeast* FFA at Ravenna, OH, had Alumni night. Chapter members met all of the Alumni Affiliate members during cider-donut refreshments sponsored by the Alumni. Then the two groups each held their own meeting.

N-N-N

Secretary of *Belleville,* WI, Chapter wrote that the chapter will send a monthly report to Scoop.

N-N-N

Since five members of *Neelyville,* MO, FFA are on the baseball team, it was a natural that the chapter helped build a batting cage.

N-N-N

An "Energy Awareness" display with free energy conservaton pamphlets at the county youth fair earned compliments and publicity for *James Wood* Chapter of Winchester, VA.

N-N-N

During FFA WEEK, *Eagle Valley,* CO, painted a banner for across Main Street.

N-N-N

For entertainment at *Fowler,* CO, annual slave sale, the chapter put on a "Hee Haw" show with members and community folks performing.

N-N-N

Susan Ames won second in the Shropshire spring lamb division at fair showing one of the *Lenapah,* OK, lamb chain animals.

N-N-N

Paul Howard passed on the *Willard,* MO, president's gavel to his brother **Joe.**

N-N-N

A tractor safety driving contest was sponsored by *Alva,* OK, at the county fair. Each local chapter held their own contest and sent the winners to the fair.

N-N-N

For the fun and to encourage attendance, *Hemet,* CA, held a barn olympics—Pepsi-Cola chugging, seed spitting, cow chip toss, three-legged race and egg toss. Competition was in two-member teams of a boy and girl.

N-N-N

Also in *Hemet,* they put a Pepsi-Cola machine in the ag classroom area for the whole school to use. It's paid for itself and is a solid fund raiser.

N-N-N

FFA WEEK display of *Miller,* MO, was broken into three parts—production agriculture, FFA community involvement and all about FFA.

N-N-N

Juniors in *Simmesport,* LA, are studying taxidermy.

Reporter **Jonathon Ruff,** *Harford Vo-Tech* in MD, sends word that FFA helped the university's Department of Agriculture pick field corn to determine yields.

N-N-N

Following Greenhand ceremonies at *Cory-Rawson,* OH, the parents and members enjoyed a dessert smorgasbord.

N-N-N

Vicki Basehore sent word that the *Cumberland Valley,* PA, Chapter would be sending us their monthly newsletter and we could use material from it.

N-N-N

Many chapters make Greenhand installation a Parents Night. *Hermiston,* OR, had a pot luck, the ceremony, plus one for Chapter Farmers, too. *Carl Junction,* MO, did a formal ceremony then held an informal one with the age-old tricks of making the initiates think they were eating terrible things (which were really food: like spaghetti as worms).

N-N-N

Lebanon, OR, organizes a fall harvest auction selling donated items like baked goods, plants, food, apple cider, straw and livestock.

N-N-N

Next year's schedule for *Zillah,* WA, lists Alumni activities including a flea market.

N-N-N

One of the topics at *Evergreen,* OH, FFA sponsored ecology day was watercraft safety. Elementary students were brought to school's pond and outdoor laboratory for the session.

N-N-N

Monroeville, OH, showed "FFA Convention Time" at fall parents' night.

N-N-N

Theme of *Martinsville,* IN, FFA Greenhand orientation night was "It's For You." It was illustrated with a huge telephone that had the receiver off the hook. Creative attention getter. Officers spoke. Cooperation was taught by tying two members together with kite string, then see how well they could work to get free.

N-N-N

The *Bismark-Henning,* IL, FFA Alumni hog roast drew a big crowd. State President **Jon Dietrich** spoke and 28 new Alumni members were signed up.

N-N-N

North Pole, AK, Chapter donated five hours of time to Fairbanks' Jerry Lewis Telethon.

N-N-N

Two hours after *Bridgewater,* SD, FFA started selling the pickup load of melons at the fair, they sold out and had to get another load. That's the kind of problem to have.

When **Frankie Cordova,** *Belen,* NM member, couldn't find a stock trailer or stockrack to use in hauling his pig to the county fair, he solved the problem by training the pig to stay in the back of the pickup. By the end of the summer, pig enjoyed the ride and it caused a spectacle when they drove into the fair.

N-N-N

In honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day, five *West Muskingum,* OH, members went to a shopping mall to distribute information about what sportsmen do for conservation and about hunting regulations and permit procedures.

N-N-N

Clark, SD, built solar panels for the local veterinarian clinic. In return, the clinic is sponsoring the FFA calendars.

N-N-N

Albion, PA, FFA raffled a cord of wood at annual fair. Winner could choose either the wood or $100. FFA earned $240.

N-N-N

Melville, LA, gives two holiday turkeys each year to needy families in two nearby communities.

N-N-N

Twelve officers and four members from the *White House,* TN, Chapter went to state FFA leadership camp and came away with eight leadership certificates, two best sports, two best athletes and first in the talent show.

N-N-N

Wauseon, OH, members picked up apples and had them made into cider to sell at home football games. They made 120 gallons and netted $120 which they gave to a local charity.

N-N-N

New vo-ag building for *Barbers Hill* FFA in Mont Belvieu, TX, has two shops, three classrooms, an officer office, lab facilities and private study rooms.

N-N-N

Highlight of *Salem,* MO, officer retreat was roasting of new President **David Milligan.**

N-N-N

All of the varsity and junior varsity wrestlers at *Clear Lake,* WI, were FFA members last year.

N-N-N

When members of *Cedar Springs,* MI, scrubbed horse stalls they earned $150 for their chapter.

N-N-N

Dows, IA, freshmen built 20 hog feeders and sold them to a local co-op.

N-N-N

Keep those cards and letters coming—but make sure you're sharing an idea other chapters would want to know about.

Bees

(Continued from Page 29)

otherwise, it'll get killed."

Next, the worker bee goes out gathering nectar. John says the nectar is changed to honey inside the bee's body as it flies back to the hive. "They figure 25,000 miles of flying to make one pound of honey," his father reveals. "But one bee wouldn't make more than 150 trips." The bees communicate with each other by performing a special "waggle-dance," which shows how far and where the nectar source is. Eventually, John says, the worker bee will actually work itself to death because of the bee's obsession to make honey.

By October or November the bees are ready to be shipped back to California for the winter. "We have what we call a gathering yard," explains John. "That's where the semi pulls up and we load the hives onto the trucks." John says he usually loads the bees at night since it's colder and the bees are more apt to be inside the hive.

John, whose outgoing personality and obvious enthusiasm for his work has played a great part in his success, says he learned the importance of record keeping in his operation through the FFA. "Because of the opportunities made available to me through my supervised occupational experience program in vocational agriculture, I learned how to expand my operation in a logical way," he says. "I thank FFA for that. But the leadership opportunities were great, too. As vice president of the Mohall FFA Chapter, I was able to attend district leadership conferences and state conventions," he adds. "I met a lot of people there and made a few friends. FFA was and still is a valuable experience for me."

No doubt this FFA member from Mohall has, and will have several more "valuable experiences" in his lifetime. But for John Herigstad, facing the challenges of operating a successful beekeeping setup in the rising bee industry of North Dakota will probably rank as one of the most important of all those experiences. "I enjoy the bees," he says with a smile. "I'd encourage anyone to invest in a hive or two—just for the sheer pleasure of it."

"I didn't do anything wrong—
I'm supposed to look sheepish."

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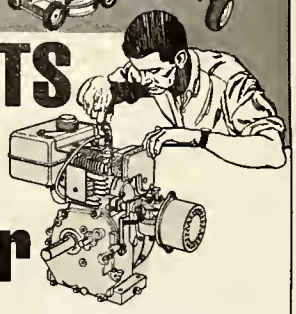

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What's New In

AGRICULTURE

Left, the MF 274, one of Massey-Ferguson's two new four-wheel-drive tractors, combines power and traction with economy. The 274 has 55-PTO horsepower with a four-cylinder 236-cubic-inch Perkins diesel engine. Both tractors have four-speed synchromesh transmissions, featuring three different speed ranges, including 12 forward and 4 reverse speeds. Two PTO shafts, standard on both models, operate both off the engine and independently at 540 rpm's and can be operated simultaneously. The wide footboard and carefully placed levers allow easy mounting and dismounting from either side and the spring suspension seat adjusts to driver's height and weight.

Right, Model 8850, top-of-the-line of John Deere's new line of four-wheel-drive tractors, is the first John Deere tractor powered by a V-8 engine. The 955-cubic-inch displacement engine provides 370 engine horsepower and 300 PTO horsepower making it the most powerful agricultural tractor the company has ever produced. The main hydraulic pump on the 8850 provides 50 percent more capacity than the pump on the 8640, previously John Deere's four-wheel-drive top-of-the-line. In addition, the 8850 has a new Category 4 hitch, with 18 percent more lift capacity than the hitches on the earlier four-wheel-drive tractors and all of the new John Deere models produce more work per gallon of fuel than previously.

Left, new from International Harvester is the 5488, the top-of-the-line 185 PTO horsepower two-wheel-drive tractor powered by a 466-cubic-inch turbocharged diesel engine. The 5488 features the largest displacement six-cylinder diesel ever used in an IH two-wheel-drive farm tractor, plus a totally new drive train with a revolutionary 18 speed fully synchronized constant mesh transmission allowing the operator to power shift up or down between first and second, third and fourth, and fifth and sixth in all three ranges. The tractor also has a forward air flow cooling system and an electronic data center which provides digital readouts of engine rpm, travel speed, and PTO speed.

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FFA members from Willow Lake, South Dakota, watch closely as Advisor Kendal Thompson demonstrates livestock management techniques.

Learning While Serving Farmers

Photos by Author

"It's absolutely great. It's a real boost to the community because it lets farmers get things done that normally wouldn't get done in performance testing and working calves . . ."

That's how one livestock producer describes the unique ongoing BOAC (Building Our American Communities) project put together by members of the Willow Lake FFA Chapter in South Dakota. As a result of hard work and an enthusiastic response to meet a community need, FFA members are able to get "hands-on" cattle working experience while at the same time provide a much-needed service to area farmers. What's more, this project could easily be adapted to your own community.

The concept is a simple one. Gradually, the chapter's members have either built or collectively purchased several specialized livestock facilities—facilities which farmers need, but only use sparingly. The equipment, all portable, is rented to area farmers for a limited time period. It includes one set of corral panels, a squeeze chute with portable weighing scale, an electronic swine and sheep pregnancy tester, a circular crowd alley, a calf tipping table and a trailer for hauling the items. The farmers make appointments to use the facilities and usually keep them for one to three days. So far, the response to the effort has been great, says Kendal Thompson, Willow Lake vo-ag instructor. But recognizing the community need was the first step.

"It all started back in '76 when we talked to some area people and found that's what was needed," Mr. Thompson explains. "There weren't many places like this available. If a farmer wanted a squeeze chute, he either had to hope a neighbor had one or the vet came out with his squeeze chute and did the work.

"Otherwise, before, the only people who had this equipment were those that had

The "calf tipping table," one of several items rented to area farmers.

Students get the opportunity to gain valuable "hands-on" experience performance testing and working with livestock.

maybe 300 head of livestock. Now, this lets people with 40, 50 or 100 head to production-test their animals."

After seeing the need, the chapter members set their goals and quickly started working to meet them. As step one, the members began construction on 20 portable corral panels, each five by ten-foot long. The panels, loading chute and trailer were all built in the ag shop over a period of five years, Mr. Thompson says. He estimates the total work time for the "in-house" construction at about four months, with students working after class, during study halls, weekends and actual class time.

A year after the corral panels were built the chapter decided to expand their BOSDC (Building Our South Dakota Communities) project by obtaining a squeeze chute with a portable weighing scale. Then, in 1978, the chapter added to their collection with the purchase of a used electronic swine pregnancy tester for swine and sheep. They bought the device from a nearby veterinarian who kindly demonstrated how to use the mechanism.

Next, the chapter invested in a circular crowd alley for working calves; a year later, they acquired a calf tipping table. "That's for light calves up to 450 pounds," Mr. Thompson says, motioning to the table. "You put the calves in there and turn them on their side. It's especially good for branding." The collection was completed with the addition of the trailer to haul the equipment.

Mr. Thompson, a former state officer in the South Dakota FFA Association, says the project was originally slated for only one or two items. "It just started out with the corral panels," he states, "from there we had no idea we'd expand on them."

Part of the reason for growth was financial: fortunately, the chapter was able to obtain over $4,500 through a special BOSDC state grant. Also, as more and more farmers began renting the equipment the chapter was able to use the in-flowing cash to purchase more items.

Local publicity for the new service came through newspaper coverage and meetings with farmers at the Willow Lake ag shop. The chapter members demonstrated several uses and advantages of the production testing items at the gatherings, including a live pregnancy-test with sows borrowed from a nearby farm.

So far the results, to say the least, have been dramatic. Mr. Thompson estimates the facilities are used between 125 and 150 times per year, at a cost to the farmer of only $5 per item per day. Mr. Thompson maintains the production-testing practices could save as much as $50,000 per year for the total number of farmers using the devices, and, he says, a farmer would have to invest about $5,000 for the same facilities at home. "Most farmers in this area are mostly crops and some livestock, so they don't want to invest that many dollars in facilities like these."

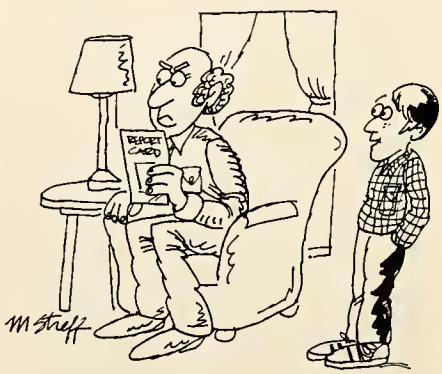
Another advantage lies in the equipment's portability. "They've been everywhere, up to 180 miles away," says Marshall Edleman, Willow Lake Chapter president. "The average, though, is probably within a 40-mile radius." The farmers "book" the equipment in advance, then pick it up and drop it off, usually within two or three days. The chapter members are in charge of any maintenance and upkeep that must be done.

Myron Edleman, Marshall's father, is a local farmer who has used the equipment service several times. "It helps improve farm management skills, because farmers and ranchers in the past wouldn't go to the trouble to do these things since the facilities weren't available," he says. "In performance testing alone, the increase in the weight of the calves you sell is profit. That's the name of the game: and *that's* farm management."

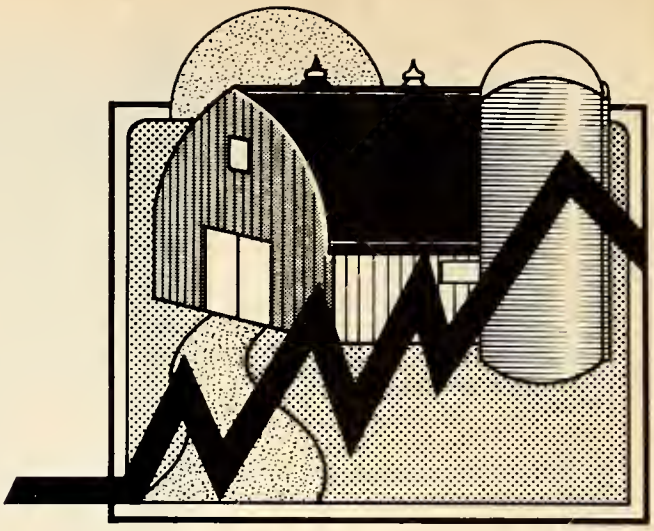
Another advantage is the "hands-on" experience FFA members get. Each year, for example, the sophomore vo-ag class at Willow Lake studies beef production, and part of the course involves actual work with the livestock. On a nice, bright fall day, Mr. Thompson and his class will troop to a nearby farm where the equipment is put in place, the calves are rounded up and the "experience" begins.

"On the first bull that comes in, I castrate, dehorn, implant and give any vaccination shots necessary," Mr. Thompson says. "Each one after that the students do, so they're learning how to work the livestock. We also use the facilities in conjunction with production-testing in the classroom."

FFA'er Laine Warkenthien, who has yet to go through class with Mr. Thompson, quickly testifies to the benefits. "My brother went through it with Mr. Thompson and now he does it for the whole herd," Laine says. In all, the students gain skills in tattooing, branding, castration, dehorning, implanting, vaccination and pouring for lice and grub control—all skills valuable to future livestock managers.



"Don't blame me for the math grade, my calculator batteries quit during the final test."



The Battle Against High Interest:

How You Can Fight Back

Although soaring interest rates are wreaking havoc on farmers and the farm equipment industry, these experts say there *are* ways to cope.

More and more farmers are trudging dejectedly away from their ag lenders or banker's office these days unsatisfied. Why? They need that new tractor or combine, but they can't afford to pay the staggering interest rates.

Simply put, today's farmer *can't afford* to finance. But he can't afford to keep his old machinery, either. That stalemate spells trouble—both for the farmer, who's already hit by climbing production costs and the farm equipment industry, which recently saw major equipment companies suffer through severe financial crises.

Fortunately, there *are* ways you can avoid the pitfalls of high interest and still maintain productivity and profits, say experts from research, commercial banking and farm equipment sectors. Below, industry analysts offer guidelines which could help you stay one step ahead of the rising interest in rising interest.

Researching your options

Peter J. Barry, professor of Agricultural Finance at the University of Illinois, says farmers should be thorough when it comes time to decide how to replace equipment.

"Each farmer facing this problem must be willing to research all of the factors affecting his income," he stresses. "Because of fluctuating interest rates, the wide variety of financing arrangements now being used and the multitude of other factors affecting farm income, we cannot draw broad generalizations about this decision."

Dr. Barry says that while interest rates now appear to be declining, the next several years will most likely bring rates which are more volatile than in the past.

"I would advise farmers to be much more conscious of trends predicted by financial analysts," he recommends. "The 80's could very well become the decade of 'interest management.' "

The finance expert from Illinois points out several key factors farmers should watch for when replacing equipment. First, operators should analyze their loan maturity and repayment pattern.

"Machinery loans usually are intermediate term, having about five-year maturities with repayment patterns filling the needs of individual borrowers," he stresses. "If farmers experience shorter maturities now, due to the financial stress conditions, then postponing machinery purchases until longer maturities are available will ease the repayment burden." But he adds that there is no evidence maturities on machinery are shorter.

"I would advise farmers to be much more conscious of trends predicted by financial analysts," Dr. Barry recommends. "The 80's could very well become the decade of interest 'management.'"

Next, increases in the cost of new machinery should favor purchase now rather than later, Dr. Barry says. Like everything else, values of both new and used machinery have trended upward, making price increases an important factor in machinery replacement and investment. "Possible trade-offs between declining interest rates and higher machine prices should be considered," he points out.

Operating cost is one more item to consider. Higher costs of repair, maintenance and other operations for old machinery would favor regular replacement.

Prospective machinery buyers should also look at expectation of higher farm income in the future, which would favor machinery purchases later, according to Dr. Barry. But although higher farm income provides more of a famer's own funds for machine purchase, countercyclical purchase of machinery could be more beneficial if dealers offer price concessions.

In addition, farmers should keep in mind their individual tax obligations; higher tax rates generally increase the incentives for capital transactions that, through expense deductions, shelter more of a farmer's income from tax obligations. He suggests you look into investment tax credit, new depreciation guidelines and tax obligations on inflated machine values.

Finally, Dr. Barry says leasing farm machinery may be a more favorable option now than in recent years, although non-economic factors tend to favor ownership.

Manufacturer's viewpoint

Dennis Sharpe, general sales manager for

Massey-Ferguson Inc.'s North American Operations, says equipment manufacturers are also trying to help farmers cope with high interest rates.

"Finance charge waiver, or no-charge financing, has long been a tactic used by manufacturers to encourage machinery purchase in the off-season," he explains. "But now, in-season waiver is being offered."

Another technique is to offer below-market rates. One of several options under a 1981 program offered by Massey-Ferguson allowed the farmer to pay no finance charge until April, 1982, then allowed two more years of financing at only 13.9 percent. Cash rebates and incentives to dealers through lower invoice prices (discounts passed along to customers) are also methods of combatting high interest.

Mr. Sharpe, in charge of Massey-Ferguson's economical and sales forecasting, says a wide-spread feeling of pessimism currently pervades the farm machinery industry, in spite of the recent downswing in interest rates.

SHARPE: "...as manufacturers cut production and inventories are reduced, extreme price competition will end. If sales start to accelerate, then the current buyers' market could vanish abruptly."

"If we are now at or near the bottom of the cycle, then farmers who are financially able but have been putting off buying probably should buy now," he says. "At the very least, as manufacturers cut production and inventories are reduced, extreme price competition will end. If sales start to accelerate, then the current buyers' market could vanish abruptly."

Although he describes the equipment industry as having a "very conservative outlook" for 1982, Mr. Sharpe says there are signs the worst is over.

"With respect to the commodity price situation, wheat may be expected to lead crop prices higher over the next several months as exports run sharply above a year ago," he predicts. Higher commodity prices generate more farm income which translates into dollars farmers spend on new machinery.

"In addition, a three-year reserve for corn was recently announced to allow the overage from the 1981 crop to be locked away until prices reach $3.15 per bushel... Meanwhile, the farmer gets a loan of $2.25 per bushel, plus initial payment of 26½ cents for the first-year storage."

Mr. Sharpe also says international crop developments in 1982 should play a significant role in reversing the current lull in farm equipment sales, as well as optimistic expectation of higher cattle and hog prices this winter.

"The point is, the potential for a significant rally in commodity prices lies just beneath the surface," Mr. Sharpe says. "When it does surface and if it persists for any length of time, we can expect the pent-up demand for farm machinery from the past two years to result in a sharp reversal of the current situation."

Financing trends

Illinois farm banker Bruce Otto says farmers in today's "complex and rapidly changing" society must have financial strategy that is "tailor-made" to fit each individual operation. Mr. Otto, senior vice president of First Farmers State Bank of Minier, is in charge of lending and bank administration. He represents the commercial banking industry—the largest single group of lenders in the country which supplies non-real estate farm debt. He explains some of the innovative financing methods used today by the commercial banking industry.

"Perhaps the most useful and workable contract for both lender and borrower is what I call the true term loan," Mr. Otto explains. "This is a contract calling for a scheduled principal reduction over more than one production period or year. Generally, the maturity is three to seven years, and the payments may be equally amortized, or may call for equal principal payments and declining interest payments. Today it is becoming more common for this type of loan to carry a variable interest rate."

Mr. Otto predicts several future trends in equipment financing. "Included would be the use of accelerated principal payments, specifically used with a beginner or expanding producer and calling for principle payments that increase over the life of the loan," he says. "We may also see amortized loans that add back to the principle during times when rates are high and it is difficult to service the interest.

"Additionally, it is quite possible that we will see an increased use of leasing, as well as the possible use of the financial futures market," he adds. "And we may see financial futures used by producers in order to hedge against variable interest rates imposed by lenders, or lenders using the futures market to hedge against cost volatility—enabling the return to fixed rate financing techniques."

New Tax Law Crucial to Farmers

THE Economic Recovery Tax Act, which means lower taxes for everyone, also holds extremely important opportunities for the nation's farmers, who are more than ever concerned with the necessity of solid tax planning strategy.

Look for tax breaks, say tax specialists from H&R Block, Inc., in areas including estate tax regulations, lowered corporate tax rates, investment tax credits, and equipment and vehicle depreciation. Most dramatic are the changes in estate taxation, whereby taxes will be completely eliminated for estates up to $600,000 in value—a critical plus for families owning farms.

"While the effects of any one of these cuts may not be as much as hoped, they will become meaningful to today's farmer when considered with the general tax cuts such as the 25 percent reduction of rates over the next two-and-a-half years," says Thomas A. Bloch, president, tax operations, H & R Block, Inc.

An area of general interest which will impact the farmer favorably is the new rules regarding depreciation write-offs. Sometimes referred to as "10-5-3," the legislation establishes new, clearly outlined recovery periods for eligible categories of buildings, equipment and vehicles, along with longer 15-year periods for certain real estate holdings. This system will replace the current "useful life" method of depreciation.

With each recovery period are specific percentage tables. The effective rate for assets placed into use in years 1981 through 1984 is 150 percent declining balance, switching to straight-line to take maximum advantage of the deduction.

In 1985, this rate will increase to 175 percent, with another increase in 1986 to 200 percent. Those who will not benefit or who do not wish to use an accelerated writeoff will be allowed to use a straight line writeoff over the specified recovery period or over a longer specified period.

- **Three-year property** is defined as cars, light trucks and machinery used in research and development activities. For assets placed in service in tax years 1981-84, you can deduct 25, 38 or 37 percent of the unadjusted basis, respectively, over the three-year period.
- **Five-year property** covers all other machinery and equipment, grain bins, fences, etc. Five-year property placed in service in 1981-84 will be written off

(Continued on next page)

New Tax Law

(Continued from Page 37)

at 15 percent the first year, 22 percent the second and at 21 percent the next three years.

- **Ten-year property** category includes owner-occupied business property. For farmers this includes barns, outbuildings, livestock structures and so on. The writeoffs for ten-year property placed in service in 1981-84 are 8 percent for the first year, 14 percent for the second, 12 percent for the third, 10 percent for each of the next three and 9 percent for each of the four remaining years.

Farmers should note that each of these percentages will increase in 1985 and *again* in 1986, says Mr. Bloch.

Rules for recapture of *unearned investment credit* have also been made more favorable. A percentage of the credit is now allowed for each full year that an asset remains in service. The total credit allowable for a year's period is 33 1/3 percent of the total for three-year property, and 20 percent of the total for 5-, 10- and 15-year property.

Whether a farming operation is incorporated or unincorporated, operators will also benefit by a new first-year writeoff for *investments in plants and equipment.*

Under this provision, designed to help the small business, owners will be able to write off up to $5,000 in investments in the year of purchase, rather than taking those writeoffs over several years under the cost-recovery system. This ceiling will be raised to $10,000, in two steps, by 1986. The provision becomes effective tax year 1982.

The problem of burdensome *estate taxes,* an increasingly troublesome area, will find some relief, with excludable property value seeing a sizable jump from the current $175,000 to $600,000 over the next five years. Taxes will be totally eliminated where the estate transfer is between spouses, rather than the $250,000 (or 50 percent of estate value) allowed under current regulations. The gift tax has also been liberalized.

With tax cuts imminent, farmers will do well to pay special attention to *income control,* planning both receipts and payment of expenses for maximum advantage. In many situations, it may be advisable to delay constructive receipt of income into tax year 1982, taking benefit of next year's considerably lowered tax rates.

"With taxes as related to farm business management becoming increasingly more complicated in the past several years, farmers are finding it wise to pay close attention to tax planning in general," says Mr. Bloch. "However, this is especially true in future years, when the far-reaching 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act begins to take effect. Opportunities for benefits are there, and should be taken advantage of."

FFA WEEK Ideas Your Chapter Can Use

National FFA WEEK for 1982 will be celebrated February 20-27. Chapters everywhere will get involved and carry out a variety of activities during that week. The following ideas were garnered from a questionnaire sent to about 1,500 chapters after last year's celebration.

If any of these ideas will work for your chapter, they're yours.

We started out the week at **Hancock, MN,** with Monday as "Farmer Cap Day"—with all the student body participating. Students wore caps of different farm organizations and companies.

Tuesday was blue and gold day—the FFA official colors. Students wore any clothes that were blue and gold.

Wednesday was "Sunday-go-to-meeting Day." All students dressed up in their Sunday best.

Thursday was Official Dress Day. All FFA members wore official dress.

Friday was Farmer Day. All the students dressed up in farmer's clothes.

All through the week we had a jar of beans for students to guess the number in the jar. Each guess cost five cents. Friday afternoon we had an assembly and announced the winners. They each received one-half the proceeds from the contest. The Hancock student body really had a fun time all week. *(Barry Watson, Reporter)*

Members of the **North Bend, NE,** FFA Chapter were involved with a variety of activities during National FFA WEEK. On Monday, FFA members and local business people along with faculty members received FFA pens and bumper stickers. The high school faculty also received FFA pins with a number stamped on the reverse side, with those wearing the pin during the entire week having their names drawn for a $15 gift certificate at a local restaurant. During the entire week the North Bend Chapter had radio spots run on three local radio stations announcing FFA WEEK and the highlights of the chapter's activities for the year. North Bend FFA also had a feature article on its 30-year history in the local newspaper.

Tuesday of National FFA WEEK involved the entire North Bend Central High School with an idea taken from *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. Members held an all school judging contest involving three classes of livestock; breeding heifers, market hogs and bred ewes. The contest was divided into two divisions, one for the faculty and the other for the student body. The contest attracted over 200 entries during the lunch break. Trophies were awarded to the top judges in each division. All involved agreed that it was quite a success.

Wednesday, the North Bend Junior officers hosted a faculty breakfast for the teachers and all members wore official dress celebrating the week's festivities.

Thursday, FFA members drove tractors to school and the chapter safety panel awarded local elementary students ribbons and trophies on their safety posters which were turned in for National FFA WEEK judging by panel members.

Friday, FFA members drew for the gift certificate that was to be given to the winning faculty member and completed preparations on decorations for the FFA-FHA sweetheart dance that was to conclude FFA WEEK activities on Saturday. *(Sheila Bang, Reporter)*

Shelby, MI, Chapter members wrote articles for a 16-page special edition insert of our local newspaper. About 7,000 copies are read by persons here in Oceana County. Our members learned a lot about writing from this project. Many of the pictures were taken by our advisor throughout the year and we found good use for these.

In addition, we contacted a billboard company and for a $36 posting fee they put up our billboard and donated the space for one month. Ordinarily the space would have cost upwards of $100 per month. We resold to our members at cost 100 bumper stickers, distributed 2,000 placemats to local restaurants. We gave pens, litterbags, pocket notebooks and a letter of thanks to 40 teachers and staff at our high school. *(Raymond Rabe, Reporter)*

Also during FFA WEEK **Tall Corn, IA,** FFA holds our FFA sweetheart contest with one event each school day. The chapter selects three senior girls for our sweetheart contest. The girls compete in the different activities which are scored by our FFA officers. The student body really is interested in the events and are around to watch.

This year's activities included: Monday, Dad's Duds Day—The gals had to dress up in their dad's clothes and wear them to school; Tuesday, Sweetheart Exam—The contestants take a written test over FFA and information about agriculture; Wednesday, Bale Throwing Contest—Each girl had eight bales of straw to move from one stack to another 30 feet away. This event was a race and was scored on how the bales were handled and how sturdy the stack was; Thursday, Hog Calling Contest—Each gal had to give a hog call in the gym. They were scored on loudness of the call, originality and facial expressions; Friday, Sweetheart Cake—Each girl had to bake and decorate a FFA sweetheart cake. This activity creates a lot of interest from the student body. *(Joe Pedersen, Advisor)*

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Dad has a lot of advice about how to raise a good corn crop. And he's taught you how to select hybrids by using a scale and moisture tester to accurately measure their performance.

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What's right for you and your Dad may differ. But chances are, you'll use the same seed corn. Experience will teach you that the best hybrids you can plant come in a Pioneer bag. Dad can't tell you exactly how to plan around unpredictable and untimely seasons. You'll have to learn that yourself. Then you'll know he was right planting Pioneer. And with a little luck, a few years of experience and a lot of Pioneer® brand seed corn, you'll do just fine.

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WHO CARES?

Bobby and Al Unser, race car drivers and motorcyclists. *"As crazy as things get out there on the race track, we're both in total control. We approach our off-road riding the same way. Fast is fun, but reckless is stupid. And loud is definitely out. We enjoy nature as much as the hikers and campers we meet. There's no reason we can't all enjoy it together."*

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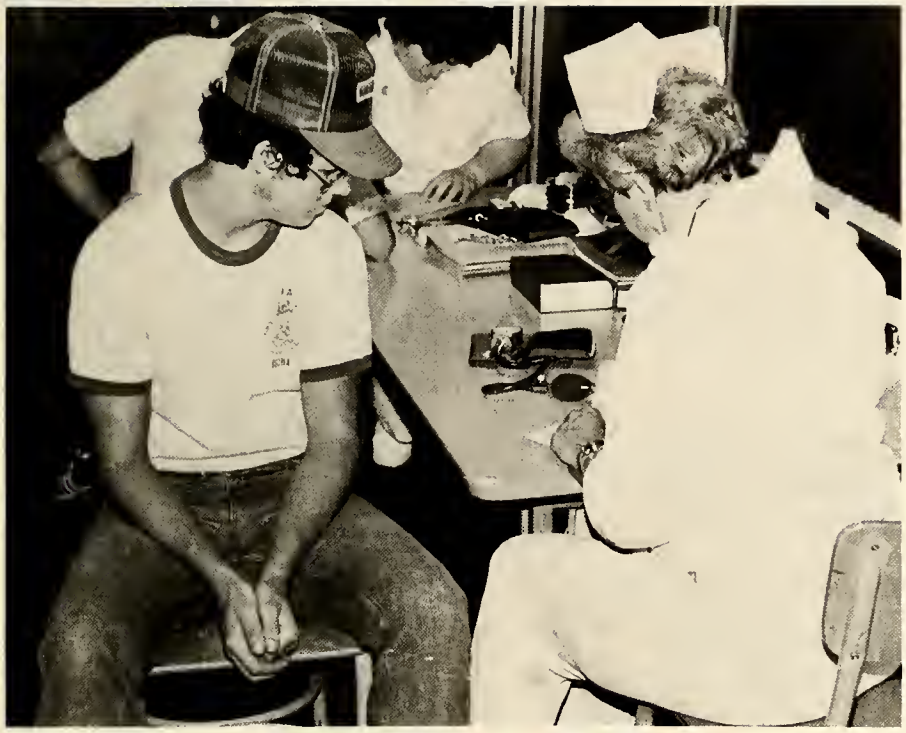
FFA IN ACTION



Members organized a successful bloodmobile and then gave as donors themselves in order to set the example for the community.

LIFE GIVING

Members of the Osceola, Missouri, Chapter surveyed the community and found that the local bloodmobile was really in need of some "new blood" to help get it back on its feet and successful.

The county Red Cross turned over full responsibility to the chapter. The chapter BOAC and community service committees sprang into action. Work schedules were made, publicity was planned, facilities were located and organized and canteen supplies were acquired as part of the work necessary to complete prior to the actual bloodmobile. Also, teams were chosen to involve every member in friendly competition in seeing who could bring in the most blood donors.

Finally the big day came. The state Red Cross arrived with their usual equipment and nurses to take the actual blood samples. Chapter members and FFA Alumni members were there to complete the many other duties such as being nurses' aides, type information, tag the samples, register the donors, care for the nursery, operate the canteen, and set up and take down the necessary equipment.

Most importantly though, all eligible FFA members served as actual donors. The FFA doubled previous sessions and far exceeded quotas.

Since their first bloodmobile, FFA has expanded to two a year and cooperates with a neighboring town so members can donate blood four times a year. We have passed our ideas on to other chapters in our district and at the Washington Leadership Conference. We have been contacted for information and advice from chapters as far away as Wisconsin, so the idea is spreading fast. Our chapter was very proud to receive the Governor's Citation at the last state FFA convention for having the number one BOAC project in the state. The members felt that high involvement by all chapter members and cooperation with many other community groups were the key to success. *(Gary Noakes)*

CHAIN REACTION

The Auburn Collegiate Chapter of Future Farmers of America and Sears Roebuck and Company joint-sponsor the annual Alabama FFA Sears Pig Chain composed of Duroc, Yorkshire, Hamp-Livestock Arena, Auburn, Alabama.

Over 100 registered boars and gilts composed of Duroc, Yorkshire, Hampshire and Spots were sold at the auction. These hogs are descendants from some of the top herds in the southeastern United States.

Participants in the state show and sale previously had shown in at least one of four major state fairs (Birmingham, Dothan, Mobile and Montgomery) in Alabama. A premier exhibitor trophy will be presented to the individual who has accumulated the most points from these four previous Sears Pig Chain Shows. Awards will be presented for the top boar and gilt of each breed, as well as a reserve champion in each breed class.

Anyone may buy at the sale and all interested breeders and producers are welcome.

During the past 20 years Sears Roebuck and Company has given purebred gilts to FFA chapters throughout the state of Alabama. To date, over 300 such gilts have been placed within chapters. As a result of this program, several thousand head of purebred hogs are now on farms of FFA members. The state show and sale was developed to futher encourage and expand the program.

The Auburn Collegiate FFA Chapter is a student organization made up primarily of agricultural education majors at Auburn University. The state show and sale is an educational and service activity of theirs. In 1979, the Collegiate FFA was named Outstanding Agricultural Student Club at Auburn University. Ronnie Rushing, senior in Agricultural Education from Haleyville, Alabama, is chairman of the show and sale committee.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

This year the popular Farm Progress Show was held at Schachtrup Farms in Brimfield, Illinois. The show site was about 30 miles from the town of Wyoming and our Wyoming, Illinois, FFA Chapter. We were contacted by the Michigan FFA Alumni Association to see if it would be possible for us to host members from various chapters in Michigan down to attend the show.

We held a meeting and sent letters to all the Wyoming members' parents to see if they would be willing to house members from Michigan. We found we had ample accomodations for them to stay so we said, "Come ahead!"

On September 30 at 6:30 p.m., 45 members and two chaperones arrived at Wyoming High School to meet their host families. After dividing them up we sent them home to get a good night's sleep and return at 6:00 a.m. to attend the show.

After spending all day at the show we returned to Wyoming for a pizza party and a chance to get to know each other better.

Friday morning we left as a group to

(Continued on Page 43)

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AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR MEMBERSHIP!

We are again approaching that time of the year when most of our chapters are having their award ceremonies and banquets. As you are aware, tremendous pressures are placed on our facilities to make deliveries in time for your presentations.

May we suggest the following:

Place orders NOW for cups, napkins, plates, place mats, place cards, and all other items that do not require personalization. Follow up this order with as many awards as possible in which you have already determined your achievers in each category. This should include your honorary nominees. You then have left only a very few items to order for RUSH delivery.

As you know, our prices include delivery by Parcel Post or UPS. Those shipments requiring AIRMAIL are very expensive and <u>are at your expense</u>. Due to the uncertainty of the airline schedules, we suggest you avoid these charges as much as possible. (Why pay air charges for cups, napkins, plates, etc?)

All of the items mentioned above can be placed by <u>mail</u>. Again, why pay high phone bills to order routine supplies? We all must cut expenses in today's economy and ordering by mail will help us in many ways.

We are beginning to computerize our order processing, but this system will not be in place and operating for at least another year. Until we have the system up and working properly we still must process your orders by hand. This is time consuming and if we can relieve some of the pressures during our critical periods, we can make sure that all of our chapters receive the service they deserve.

Ordering by open account has become somewhat of a problem. In order to meet our obligations with our suppliers we must have funds on hand. We would sincerely hope that all chapters would send payment as soon as possible after receipt of their order or invoice so that we may remain in a sound financial position.

We at the Supply Service are here to help you, but we need your help also. We appreciate your keeping emergency requests to a minimum and with a little advance planning, a lot of pressure can be relieved, not only for us but yourself as well.

Thank you very for your support, and we hope to merit your future support by making timely deliveries with quality items.

NATIONAL FFA SUPPLY SERVICE

FFA IN ACTION

(Pick up ACTION from Page 41)

FACTS FOR ACTION

WHEN SHARING WHEELS, SHARE SAFETY TOO

Car pooling is a good way to offset high gasoline prices and increasingly expensive vehicle wear and tear. Rural people usually lack good public transportation and therefore must rely on motor vehicles in order to get around. Many farm family members work part- or full-time in offices and plants, sometimes 10, 20 or even more miles away. In many cases, car pools could be organized.

Farm folk could take turns driving to shopping or business areas. People planning to go into town could phone a neighbor or two to see if they could take them along or pick up supplies, thereby saving someone a trip. And certainly members should car pool for chapter meetings.

But when you take part in a car pool or invite someone to ride along you are responsible for your passenger's safety. Therefore, make certain your vehicle is in good, safe running order. Make sure you have ample insurance, too.

If you are in a car pool and it's your day or week to drive, ask your riders to be ready on the dot so you won't need to make like Al Unser in order to get to school on time. But you should still allow an extra two or three minutes for each passenger pickup. Likewise, when you are riding, don't keep your companions waiting.

Do not carry more people than there are seats and safety belts. You can stuff six or seven in a compact car, but it doesn't make for comfort or safety. Also, an overloaded car is harder to handle, has less acceleration and stopping ability, and the mob can block rearward vision.

Obey all signs, signals and traffic laws. Others are depending on your competence at the wheel. At rail crossings, especially those lacking automatic warning devices, slow down, look, listen and be prepared to stop. Do not play the radio or tape so loudly or become so involved in conversation that you can't hear sirens, horns, bells and other auditory signals that might spell danger or call for an appropriate driving response.

When dropping passengers off (other than in a parking lot), pull over as far as possible at a place where it's safe to stop.

Sharing our wheels with others is a good way to help conserve fuel. But we must also do our best to ensure that every trip is a safe one. *(National Safety Council)*

tour Caterpillar Tractor works in nearby Peoria. Most all the members were impressed by the techniques used to put the big dozers together. Friday afternoon the Michigan members presented their host families with blueberry jelly and blueberry muffin mix, all products of the state of Michigan.

Friday night the members from Michigan were special guests at Wyoming High School's Homecoming football game. Saturday morning the Michigan members departed with many new friends and experiences from their stay in Wyoming, Illinois. *(David Rumbold, Reporter)*

COOPERATIVE HOGS

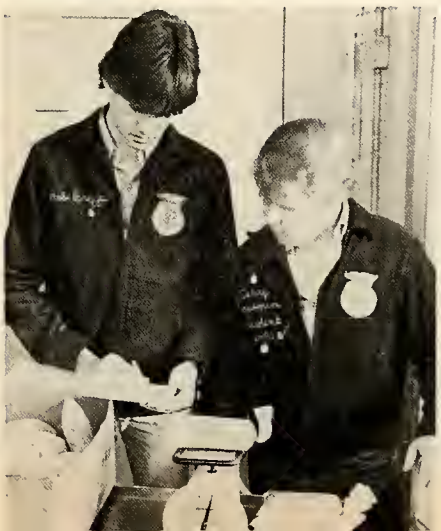
Members of Fairbanks, Ohio, FFA formed the Fairbanks General Food Cooperative this year. The FFA members saw a need early in the school year to find a reliable source of fairly priced food items.

The students began studying the principles of cooperatives and how they functioned as compared to other forms of business. These booklets, including "Understanding Your Cooperatives," were provided by the Ohio Council of Farmer Cooperatives. The class was fortunate to have several guest speakers including Ed McLaughlin from Producers Livestock-Marysville and Kirk Dunham and Jack Jameson from Landmark, Inc., come in to discuss cooperative principles.

Outside the classroom, the students visited several cooperatives such as Landmark, Inc., Mid-States Wool Growers, Union Rural Electric Company and Production Credit Association. The FFA members also visited several non-cooperative businesses to learn about advertisement, packaging and the processing of products. Pete Kunk, from Cello-Poly Corporation helped us study the plastic packaging of products and Dave Russel, agriculture director at WRFD radio station, discussed with the class how to promote our product and develop commercials to advertise our product.

The students sent 500 surveys throughout the community to determine the needs of the community and to indicate some of their preferences and shopping habits. The response from the survey was very favorable for pork products, health food, seafood and turkey. The members evaluated all products and discovered that turkeys were being sold by the stores at below costs and that health food and seafood were unavailable in a ready supply. For this reason the members decided to evaluate pork products. A proposed budget to determine the success or failure of the project was developed. The budget was the key in determining the success of their cooperative.

Members learned through actual experience about the details of proper packaging and labeling of food products.



At this point the members discussed the different types of cooperative structures and decided to own and operate their own supply cooperative. The cooperative would purchase and process the hogs and sell the retail cuts to the members at or near cost of the operation plus a 5 percent markup for operating expense. This would also provide an opportunity for the FFA to purchase market hogs or sows from FFA members or young farmers in the community which would help strengthen their market.

The members elected a board of directors, a general manager to oversee the program, an executive and assistant treasurer to control all monetary flows.

Common stock, used for voting purposes (one person, one vote) and preferred stock, used as an opportunity for investment only, were designed, printed and sold to members. Each member is allowed to purchase only one share of common stock with any member investing in preferred stock at any amount.

The members purchased their first market hog and had the hog processed into sausage, pork chops, smoked hams, spare ribs and pork liver. The general manager inventoried all the products and the board of directors analyzed the costs involved in obtaining the retail cuts and added their 5

(Continued on Page 44)

BONNIE GET YOUR GUN

Bonnie Wion, Greenville, Ohio, FFA Chapter queen also participated in the annual Miss Annie Oakley contest. In order to win the contest she had to shoot a gun at distances starting at the 25-foot mark. She was one of the ten finalists in the county. *(Angie Albright, Reporter)*

FFA IN ACTION

(Pick up ACTION from Page 43)

percent markup for operating expense and established a price for each retail cut based on weight. The members then purchased the products from the cooperative and sold to the people in the community at their own established price. The difference between the members' price and the cooperatives' price is the members' profit.

After processing several hogs, the members discussed the possibility of marketing their sausage in the local grocery stores to expand their operation. It was discovered, after much research, that the cooperative would need their own hogs and package to legally market their sausage product in the stores. For this reason, the members worked with Cello-Poly Corporation in developing their own logo and sausage bag but not without learning the legal red tape of having to comply with the many state regulations regarding the ingredients, weight and our processor's name, Marysville Packing Company. The members ordered 5,000 one-pound bags and currently have their sausage sold in two local grocery stores located in Plain City, Ohio.

The cooperative members have sold over 2,200 pounds of pork products including one-inch thick pork chops for the annual FFA banquet. The members also provided sausage for the FFA Alumni pancake and sausage dinner. Both advisors agree, "We feel the cooperative has not yet reached its potential as a growing business because its sales have consisted primarily of friends and family. But the avenues open to the members of the cooperative are many. Cooperatives are a growing way of life." *(Todd Class, Reporter)*

AN ACTION IDEA

The National FFA Supply Service offers local chapters an excellent opportunity for forming purchasing cooperatives. Local chapters can form cooperatives which use the Supply Service volume discount prices for purchasing merchandise and sell to members at the recommended single item price. The difference between the quantity discount price and the single item price can be used as profit and returned to members in the form of dividends.

Local chapter members can gain valuable experience running a cooperative by electing their own board of directors. The student board of directors can make decisions about what items to purchase, what quantity to purchase, the selling price and the size of dividend to declare. Such an organization will emphasize the practical aspects of a working cooperative by "doing to learn."

It is possible to have at least two methods of determining membership in the cooperative. One possibility is to charge each member a small fee. This membership fee can be used to help finance the beginning merchandise inventory. If a membership fee is charged, it should be refunded at the end of the year when dividends are declared. A second membership approach is to treat every member of the FFA chapter as being a member of the chapter cooperative.

The major part of the cooperative's initial financing can be a loan from the chapter. The loan could be directly to the cooperative or it could be in the form of making the purchase of merchandise to create the beginning merchandise inventory.

Another important organizational procedure is the establishment of a recording form. The form should keep track of member purchases by having a place for the student's name, item purchased, its sale price, date of purchase and the advisor's initials or signature.

By actually establishing a chapter cooperative, members learn the workings of a cooperative and how to participate in one. The chapter cooperative can be used as a classroom example while teaching about cooperatives, agricultural financing, inventories, selling. In addition to classroom teaching content, the cooperative will encourage greater chapter participation by members of its board of directors and encourage students to use more FFA merchandise. *(John Hillison, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Agricultural Educatoin)*

THIS LITTLE PIG WENT TO—TERRY

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ing to the Future Farmers of America.

The plan, suggested by Jack Mullican of Columbia Feed and Supply and approved by the officers of the FFA, was to give a live, pregnant animal (in this case, a hog) to a selected student. The student was to have complete responsibility of caring for it, keeping records of cost, breeding fees, upkeep, and giving progress reports on its condition.

First requirement for those members interested was to get parental approval and to have space to comfortably house the animal. Following this, each student was carefully interviewed by the FFA officers.

Terry Vanderwerf, a sophomore, was selected as the first recipient to start this gilt chain program. He took possession of the half-spotted Poland China and half-Yorkshire in August, 1979.

In November, 1979, "Pigger" as she was affectionately called, gave birth to her first litter, six gilts and two boars. After the pigs were weaned, Columbia Feed and Supply, Mayflower Feeds and the local chapter each received a pig. These were the first links in the continuing chain.

Terry, now a senior, is still showing at county fairs and doing selective breeding. At present he plans to introduce the Duroc strain into his herd, feeling this cross-breeding will produce an excellent animal. *(Mary F. Vanderwerf)*

A "BEAUT" OF A PAGEANT

In March, the Zwolle, Louisiana, FFA was faced with a serious problem. We were to come up with a program to entertain the entire student body. Putting our heads together, the FFA members decided to do something courageous, daring, and, of course, entertaining. We decided to hold a pageant to name the queen "Miss Agriculture of Zwolle."

The catch was that all members (excluding the ushers) were to be boys dressed in girls' clothing from wig to high heels. Officers were automatically chosen and to our amazement, volunteers were in no time supplied. There were ten contestants including Miss Senorita Tamale, Miss All Beef Patty, Miss Cajun Kitty, Miss Moonshine, Miss All Jersey, Miss Grease Monkey, Miss Piggly Wiggly, Miss Ima Cow and Miss Brandon's Feed and Seed.

The reaction from the crowd was spectacular. The student body was naturally rolling in the aisles while we poor red-faced FFA members went on with our program. It began with introduction of the judges followed by introduction of ushers "J.R." and "Bobby Ewing." The contestants were brought out one at a time to the music of popular hits. After contestant presentation, Dolly Parton (Mike McClanahan) performed.

The grand finale came with the introduction of the reigning queen, our advisor, Mr. Chris Loupe, who strutted down center-stage as a final walk to give the crown to the new Miss Agriculture, the one and only Miss Piggly Wiggly. *(Jeff Rivers, Pageant Emcee and Chapter President)*

CAR SPOTTERS

Elgin, Ohio, FFA members with the assistance of the State Highway Patrol conducted a vehicle safety inspection on the student vehicles.

A total of 95 cars and trucks were checked for head and taillights, brake and signal lights, windshield wipers, steering and tires and rear view mirrors. The inspection was in conjunction with the student council vehicle parking permit program which aids in identification of student cars. Few hazards were found and most cars had been kept in good mechanical safety repair. Members inspecting, supervised by Patrolman Uhler, were Donny Ingles, Randy Murphy, Bryan Boles, John Daily, Scott Gamble, Ed Bauer, Guy Pennington, Jeff Hicks, Doug Champer, John Berridge, Darrin Park and Jim Ralph. *(Dale Murphy)*

ACTION LINES

- Give people some new FFA litterbags later in the year.
- Use a lavender highlighter.
- Make toy blocks from scraps for kids.
- Learn how to spell maneuverability.
- Record your thoughts each day in a little pocket notebook.
- Offer to do a 5-minute radio spot each week about youth in your town.
- Recommend apples and oranges be added to the list of concession stand items.
- Give out eraser tips to add onto tired pencils.
- Save your official jacket.
- Wash the windows of the advisor's office.
- Put *National FUTURE FARMER* magazines in the coffee shop.
- Be the first one to arrive at the chapter meeting.
- Buy a used typewriter.
- Put olives in the next tossed salad you fix.
- Christmas present ideas from you: a new photo of you; plant you grew; slaughter a steer and give beef; 25 hours of free help; typing service; babysitting service; a fresh cut Christmas tree or a collection of pine cones.
- Make your own Christmas cards.

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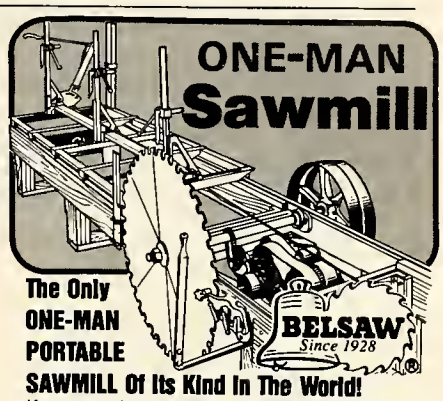

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Dairying and FFA—A Family

On November 12 of this year 19-year-old Rick Linton of Martinsburg, West Virginia, walked proudly across the stage of the National FFA Convention and received the award captured by an elite 2 percent of FFA membership—the American Farmer degree. To most, the elusive degree is a reflection of excellence in agriculture, a culmination of hard work and recognition of success. For Rick Linton, though, earning the title of American Farmer is even more—it's symbolic of the satisfaction of being part of a family team effort.

Rick is not the first FFA member in his family to receive the prestigious award, nor the second. He's the fifth. That's right, fifth.

The story of the Linton family of West Virginia is one of courage and spirit, of dreams and traditions; it is a tale of a family who believes in farming as both a business and a way of life. Yes, the American family farm is alive and well here at Martinsburg, West Virginia.

His sea-blue eyes blaze brightly in the morning light, as Rick helps his three older brothers repair a chopper wagon that has malfunctioned. The farm, known as

Photo by Don Michael

Above, the Linton family: Rick, Mrs. Ruth Linton, brothers Steve, Bruce and James. Below left, Rick and brother Steve unload silage for storage.

"Green Valley Dairy," is a swarm of activity today as the Lintons prepare to store silage for the winter months. Later, before the afternoon milking session, Rick sits at the kitchen table as the story begins to unfold.

Rick's father, C. Arlington Linton (known to all as "Doc"), died of a heart attack in 1980, leaving Rick, his mother and his brothers to manage the farm. "Doc" had served West Virginia as a state officer in the FFA in 1938 and earned his American Farmer degree a year later, says Rick. It would be their father's enthusiasm for FFA and love for farming which would help spur each of the Linton brothers on to reach the degree their father earned years before.

As Rick's older brothers Steve, Bruce and Jim grew older, each became interested in the family dairy operation and consequently, became involved in FFA. One by one, they earned the title of American Farmer and the family dairy expanded and grew. Now, Rick, currently serving as state president of the West Virginia FFA Association, has added the final degree to the family honor roll.

"It wasn't just the fact they wanted to be fourth or fifth in the family to get the degree," says Mrs. Ruth Linton, gesturing toward her sons. "They really wanted to enjoy the work that goes with it and to learn from their programs. We've been very fortunate to have good FFA advisors," she adds. "The man who was Doc's ag teacher, C. J. Cunningham...I think he made more of an impression on Doc's life than any other person I know could have. And I think he, in turn, instilled all the principles of FFA in each of the boys."

The Linton farm is a smooth, efficient operation streamlined by effective and aggressive record keeping. Each of Rick's older brothers is now married and living either on or near the farm.

"Each of us has a job which we are in charge of," says Rick. Steve, who earned a B.S. degree in Dairy Science, handles the major responsibilities of herd records, herd health and planting. Bruce, who studied agriculture technology, is responsible for most of the milking duties and artificial breeding; he serves as substitute Artificial Inseminator technician for the county. Jim worked off the farm a short time as an electrician and now uses those skills on the operation as well as handling herd records and a major part of the field work. "We really don't have a boss around here," Rick says, laughing. "All four of us work pretty well together."

Rick has played a less active role in the operation as of late because of his FFA duties; he served West Virginia as state secretary, state vice president and now as state president. But because of his commitment to the farm, he says it was a tough

Tradition

By Michael Wilson

decision to make whether or not to run for state office. The year was 1978.

"I went around to each of them individually (his brothers) and asked them what they thought," says Rick. "Dad knew what FFA was for and what good I was going to get out of it. So when I asked *him* if I should run for state office he said, 'For sure—go ahead.' It seems like I've been on the road ever since, but I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Although Rick says his involvement in FFA has been rewarding, his first love is still dairy cattle. The Linton's record keeping system for their dairy operation is like a well-oiled machine, an all-inclusive program which utilizes both production files and a gestation tabulator to keep track of herd performance. The tabulator is a large pinwheel with multicolored pins attached; the pins are changed each time a cow goes through a particular phase, such as calving, lactating or dry. Rick says the tabulator is fairly common among dairy farmers.

Not so common are the production files kept on all cows. Each animal has a separate folder where all records are kept. "One color ink means she's registered, another means she's a grade (not registered or eligible for registry). Inside the folder are any papers that we have on her," Rick explains. "If the cow was bought at a sale, the record of transfer, registration or receipt goes in here as well as her DHIA summaries. Also, each file is complete with the cow's name, her sire's and dam's names, registered numbers, birth date, vaccination dates and what was used," Rick adds patiently. "In the chart below goes all the breeding information and when she's fresh. On the front of the folder is all the info on health management, pregnancy checks and confirmations." So each file is a listing so complete even a CIA agent would be envious. "*Anything* that happens to that cow is written down on that card," Rick says.

The Lintons currently milk 135 purebred and grade Holsteins and have approximately 70 replacements on their 522-acre farm. They've installed a double-six herringbone milking parlor complete with weigh jars and CIP milkers and a liquid manure system, one of the first in the state, was constructed to hold approximately two months' storage in normal weather. Rick says the operation is in a constant state of expansion and the family has planned construction on a new barn by the end of the winter.

Although Rick has "a few" beef cattle and hogs also, he makes no secret of the importance of the dairy operation. "I guess you could actually say we're diversified," he says with a smile. "But dairy is what's payin' the bills around here."

In 1978, the Linton family was chosen Outstanding Farm Family in West Virginia. A modest individual, Rick denies any personal credit, saying, "I couldn't be in a state office or maintain my SOEP program if someone weren't here to do the work when I'm gone. My goals are family-oriented; anything we've won or I've won has been for all of us."

Rick says he hopes the future will see the day the family incorporates the farm, with members of the immediate family as shareholders. The Martinsburg FFA member says he plans to return to Green Valley Dairy full time once he's through with college. "It's a matter of setting my priorities and then getting things done," he says firmly. For Rick Linton, "setting priorities" and "getting things done" are just two more reasons why this farm family from West Virginia has continued its remarkable American Farmer tradition.

Below, Rick inspects the crops with Martinsburg vo-ag teacher and FFA Advisor Claetus Canby.

Rick explains the dairy's record keeping system, including production files and "gestation tabulator."

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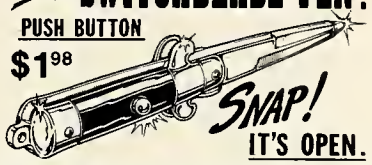

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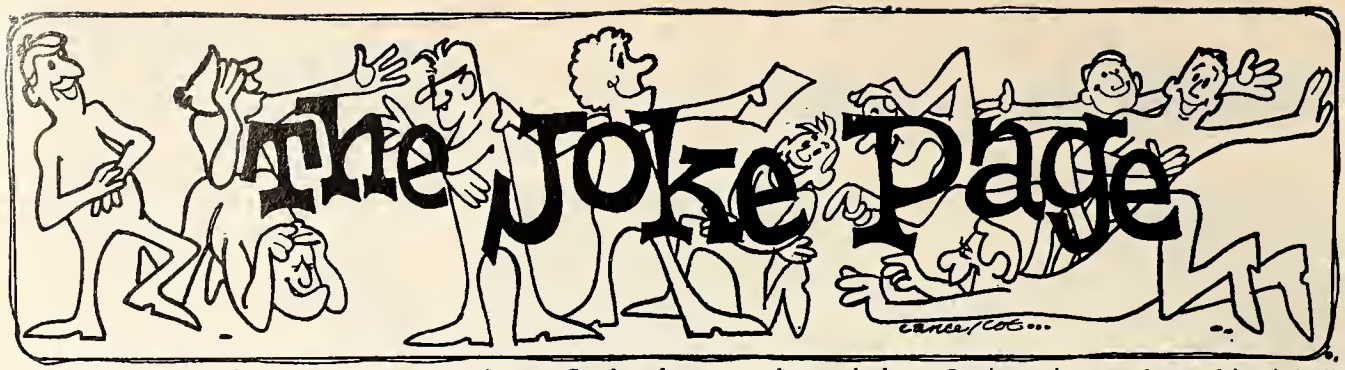
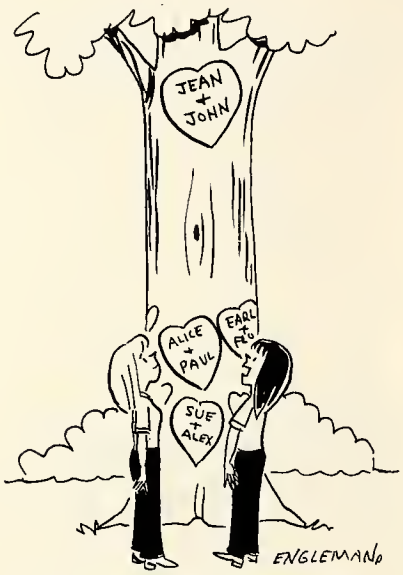


George: *"My brother has a very important job. He works with 1,000 people under him."*
Fred: *"Wow!" Is he the head of a big factory?"*
George: *"No, he mows the cemetery lawn."*
Jack Davis
St. John, Washington



"I see Jean is still dating that basketball player . . . !"

Two small boys were standing on the corner discussing family trees.
"Yes, sir," said Billy, *"I can trace my relatives back to a family tree."*
"Chase 'em back to a family tree?" said Joe.
"Naw, man—trace 'em, get me?"
"Well, there ain't but two kinds of things that live in trees—birds and monkeys—and you sure ain't got no feathers on you."
Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Have you heard a good joke lately? The Joke Page is the place to share it. Let fellow Future Farmers have a laugh on you. Beginning with the February-March, 1982, issue, we will pay $5.00 for each joke which we select to use on The Joke Page. Send them in letters, on postcards, on the back of school assignments, or written on a box top. It's no longer mandatory to use only a postcard. Whatever way you send them, be sure the editors can read them, especially your name and address.

It was a Sunday afternoon and a man had been watching football on TV, one game after another. Finally he fell asleep in the chair and slept there all night. When his wife arose in the morning, she was afraid he'd be late for work. *"Get up, dear,"* she said, *"it's 20 to seven."*
In an instant he was awake, *"In whose favor?"* he shouted.
Donnie Godby
Liberty, Kentucky

A man's wife came into the living room with her head bristling with pink plastic curlers.
"What happened to your head?" he asked.
"I set it," was her answer.
"What time does it go off?"
Tammy Beeler
Lancaster, Missouri

It was a rough football game and tempers were high. The referee called a facemask penalty and walked off 15 yards. Infuriated, one of the players yelled out, *"You stink!"*
Without stopping the referee stepped off another 15 yards and called back, *"How's the aroma from here?"*
Jason Moore
Liberty, Kentucky

Service station attendant to driver in badly battered car: *"I don't know if I should sell you any more gasoline. It looks like you've had enough already."*
Thomas LaMance
Modesto, California

"Last year," the instructor of vocational agriculture told his class, *"people bought over 3 million quarter-inch drills. Why?"*
"Obviously they wanted quarter-inch drills," a student answered.
"Not at all," the teacher replied. *"They wanted quarter-inch holes."*
Oran Nunemaker
Glasco, Kansas

Doctor: *"Why do you have A-5906 tattooed on your back?"*
Patient: *"That's not a tattoo. That's where my wife ran into me while I was opening the garage door."*
Brian Smith
Flintstone, Maryland

Teacher: *"George, you missed school yesterday, didn't you?"*
George: *"Not a bit."*
Michael Watson
Wendell, North Carolina

Charlie, the Greenhand

"He just asked me how much pizza I could eat. Bet he really wants somebody for the Earning and Savings Committee."

The National FUTURE FARMER *will pay $2.00 for each joke selected for publication on this page. Jokes must be submitted on post cards addressed to The National FUTURE FARMER, Alexandria, VA 22309. In case of duplication, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.*

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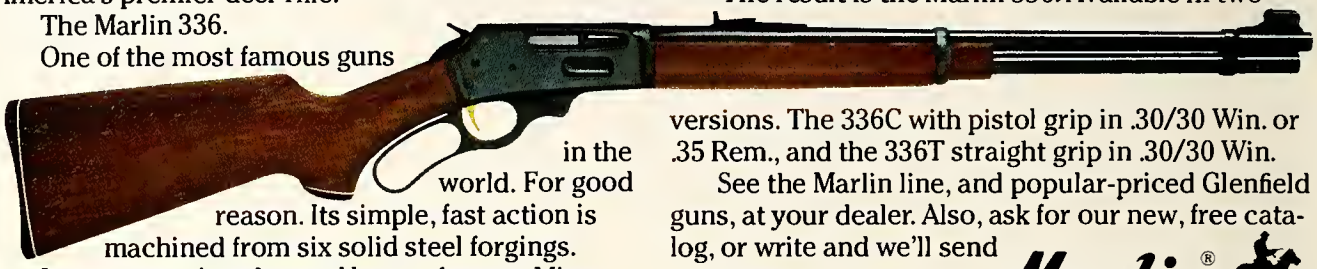

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